

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3304

March 19, 2010

The Honorable James P. Moran
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Simpson:

We are writing to urge the Subcommittee to provide \$232.5 million to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, with \$144 million for NEH National Programs and \$60 million for the NEH Federal/State Partnership. This \$65 million increase over the FY 2010 enacted level would help offset mounting economic pressures on the academic workforce and humanities institutions, as well as strengthen the nation's infrastructure for humanities education and research for the long-run.

Even with the relatively small amount of funding provided to the endowment, NEH remains one of the largest and most important sources of support for sponsored research and other humanities activities in the U.S. Each year, NEH grants support strengthened institutional capacity, jobs, and professional development for thousands of scholars, educators, curators, librarians, public historians, museum professionals, filmmakers and others around the country. Their work is at the heart of efforts to preserve our nation's heritage, strengthen our civic institutions, bring humanities to our communities, and educate the next generation of Americans to address complex challenges in a globally competitive workforce.

Current demand for humanities project support far exceeds funding availability. Each year, as billions of dollars are rightfully invested in research and education in science and technology, the relative federal investment in the humanities falls further behind. In FY 2009, NEH awarded only 16.9% of all competitive project proposals (it received more than 4,000 projects for more than \$400 million), as compared to the 32% funding rate for merit-reviewed projects at the National Science Foundation. The requested increase would help close this gap by providing \$44.4 million in new funding for NEH National Programs, with \$36.9 million to increase the award rate for peer-reviewed project proposals to 25%, and \$7.5 million to support a new, competitively-awarded graduate-student faculty program.

State humanities councils work in partnership with the NEH to reach millions of Americans each year through teacher institutes, literacy initiatives, programs on local history and culture, and support for local cultural and educational groups, community groups, and scholars. A recent survey found that the councils would need an additional \$150 million to meet the need for programs and infrastructure support in their states. This request would provide councils with \$19.6 million for operating grants to expand their reach and address unmet needs.

Finally, increased funding would ensure full implementation of agency plans to enhance Americans' understanding of world cultures at home and abroad through *Bridging Cultures*, and to collect, analyze, and disseminate statistical information on the state of humanities through *Humanities Indicators*.

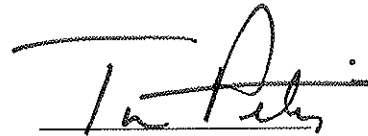
NEH did not receive any funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and unfortunately, the President's FY 2011 budget request of \$161.3 million represents a \$7.2 million (5.6%) cut to NEH program funds. We are aware of the many difficult choices your Subcommittee faces in crafting its FY 2011 bill, but we believe that strong federal support for the humanities is needed now more than ever to preserve America's place as a world leader in education and innovation for all fields of learning. As the legislation that established the NEH forty years ago states, "An advanced civilization must not limit its efforts to science and technology alone, but must give full value and support to the other great branches of scholarly and cultural activity in order to achieve a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future."

We appreciate your past support of NEH and urge you to provide a robust increase in FY 2011 funding for the endowment to advance the nation's study and understanding of history, literature, foreign language, and other critical fields.

Sincerely,



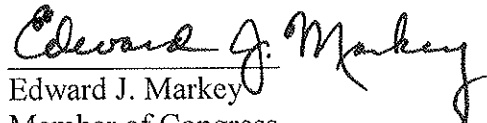
David Price
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Humanities Caucus



Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Humanities Caucus



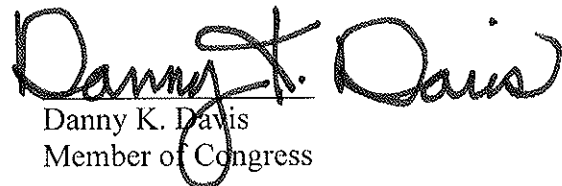
Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress



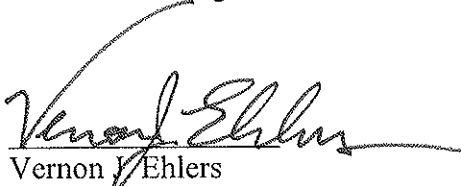
Edward J. Markey
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Peter A. DeFazio
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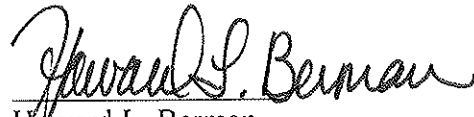
Vernon J. Ehlers
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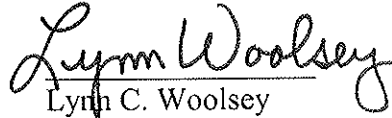
Vic Snyder
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Howard L. Berman
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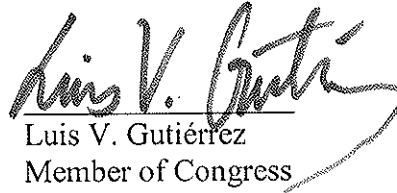
Barney Frank
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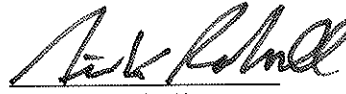
Robert E. Andrews
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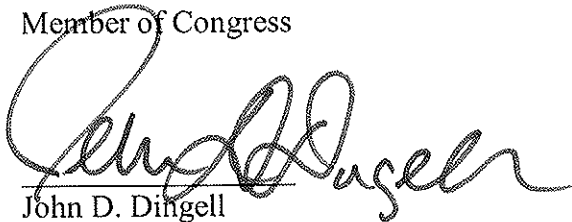
Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



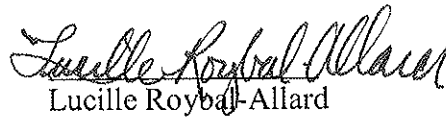
Earl Blumenauer
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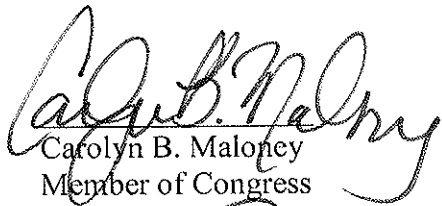
Nick J. Rahall, II
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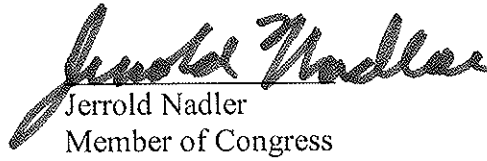
John D. Dingell
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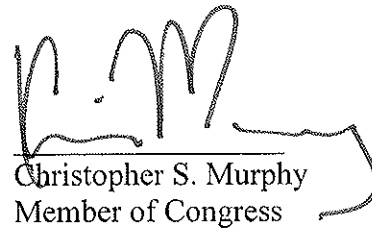


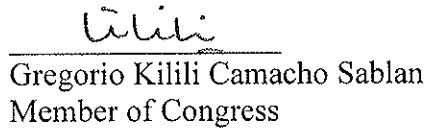
James L. Oberstar
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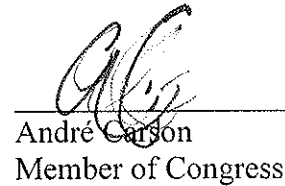


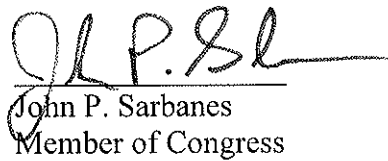
Bill Owens
Member of Congress

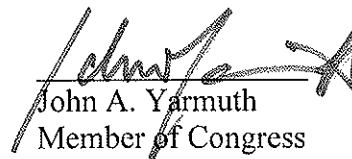

Shelley Berkley
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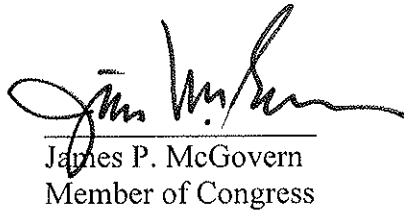

Christopher S. Murphy
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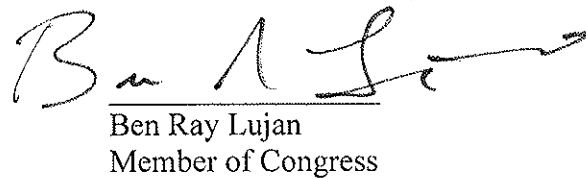

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
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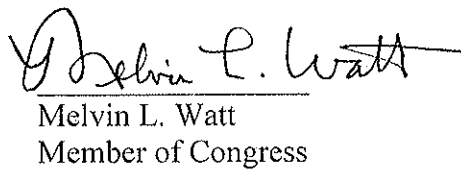

André Carson
Member of Congress

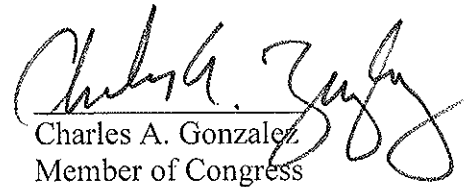

John P. Sarbanes
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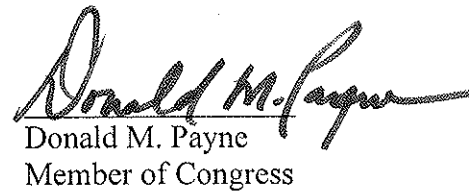

James P. McGovern
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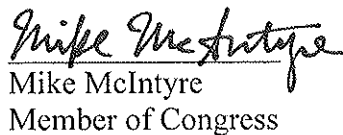

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Melvin L. Watt
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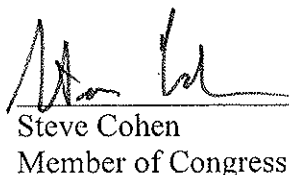

Charles A. Gonzalez
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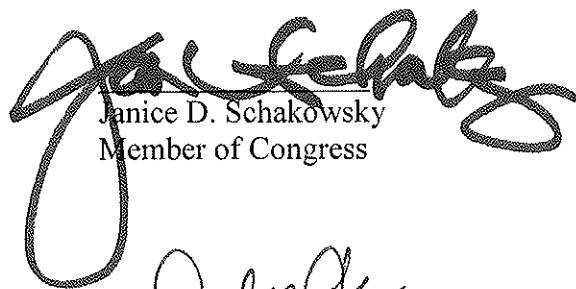

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Mike McIntyre
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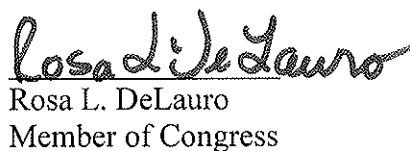

Peter Welch
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Steve Cohen
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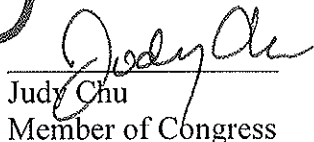

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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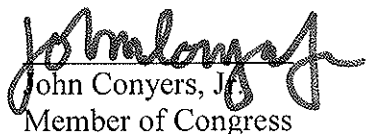
Janice D. Schakowsky
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Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



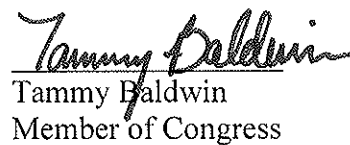
Frank A. LoBiondo
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Jim Matheson
Member of Congress



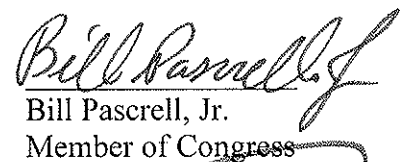
Mike Ross
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Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



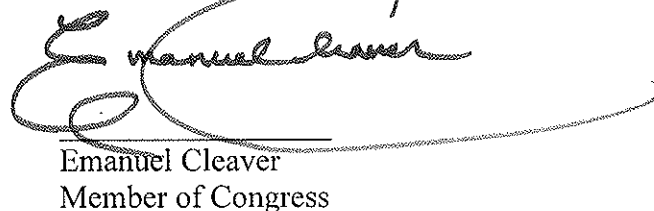
Bill Delahunt
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



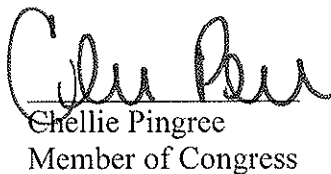
Nydia Velazquez
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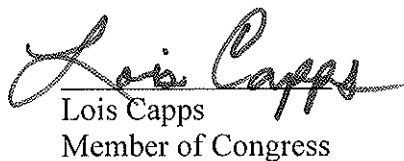
Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



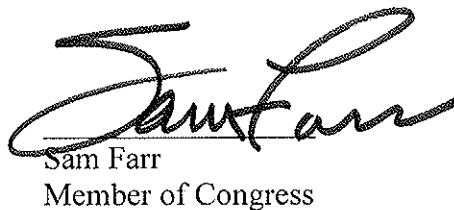
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress




Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress





Lois Capps
Member of Congress

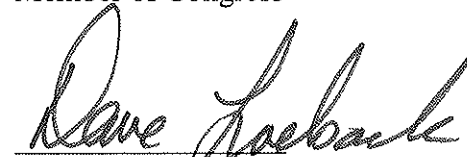


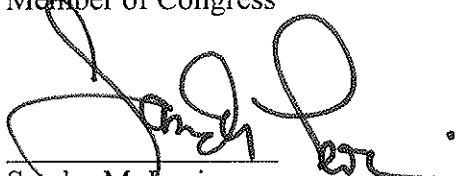
Sam Farr
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Brad Miller
Member of Congress

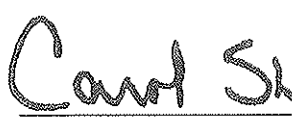

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress

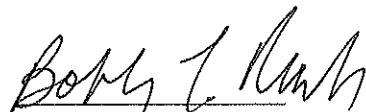

David Loeb sack
Member of Congress

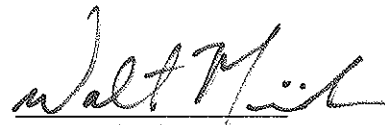

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

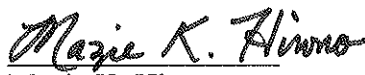

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

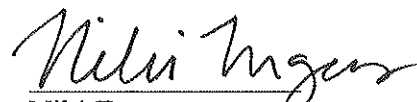

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress


Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Walt Minnick
Member of Congress


Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress


Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

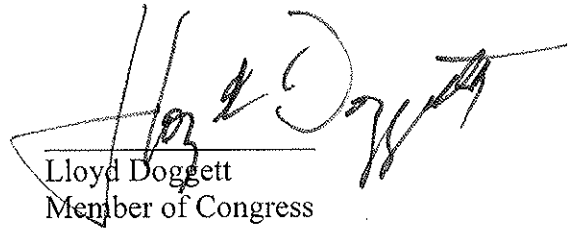

Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress


Dennis Moore
Member of Congress

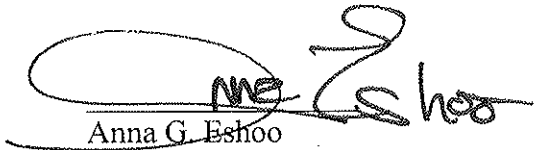

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



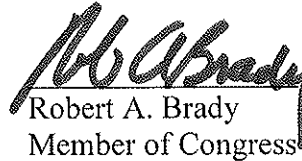
Leonard Lance
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Lloyd Doggett
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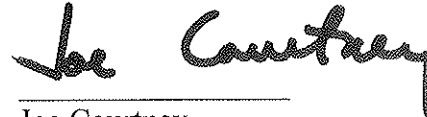
Anna G. Eshoo
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Robert A. Brady
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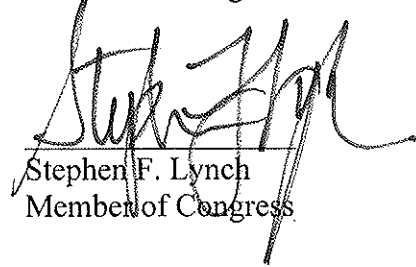
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
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Dan Boren
Member of Congress



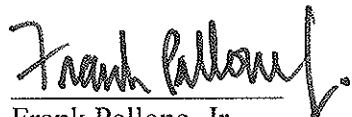
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui
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David Scott
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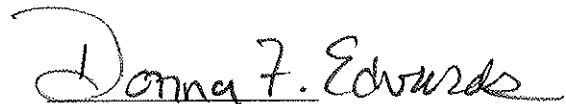
Frank Pallone, Jr.
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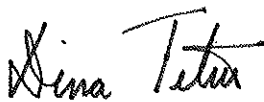
Fortney Pete Stark
Member of Congress



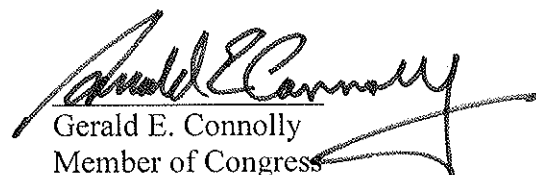
Jim Gerlach
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