

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2011

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Moran
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran:

We are writing to urge the Subcommittee to provide funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) at the fiscal year (FY) 2010 enacted level of \$167.5 million for FY 2012.

As you know, NEH is the primary source of federal support for humanities research and related activities in the U.S. The Endowment provides competitive grant funding for research and scholarship in history, literature, foreign languages, and other fields that provide individuals with critical ethical, cultural, and historical perspective. Additionally, NEH funding allocated through state humanities councils strengthens the cultural infrastructure of local communities across the nation.

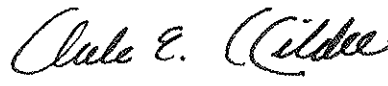
Investment in the humanities advances critical U.S. interests by fostering a globally competitive workforce, strengthening civic engagement, preserving our cultural heritage, and protecting our national security. As our world becomes more interconnected, building a solid foundation in the humanities becomes even more vital to U.S. interests – that's why virtually all of our CIA analysts, State Department officials and diplomats at embassies across the globe are graduates of the humanities.


NEH has been an outstanding steward of the relatively small amount of federal support it receives annually. Between 1965 and 2009, NEH successfully leveraged more than \$2 billion in non-federal support, including private and institutional contributions. However, current demand for humanities project support far exceeds funding availability, and non-federal support for the humanities has declined sharply due to the current economic downturn. 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.

We are aware of the many difficult choices your Subcommittee faces in crafting its FY 2012 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 and help provide our nation's citizenry and workforce with the foundation necessary to tackle the challenges of today's globalized world. We appreciate your past support of NEH and strongly urge your support for this request.

Sincerely,


David Price



Dale Kildee


Peter DeFazio

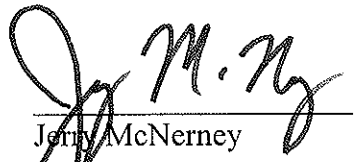

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Louise M. Slaughter for Mr. Dermot


Mike Quigley


Sam Farr


Brad Miller


Jerry McNerney


Rush Holt


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

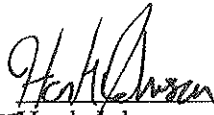

Chellie Pingree


Laura Richardson


Peter Welch

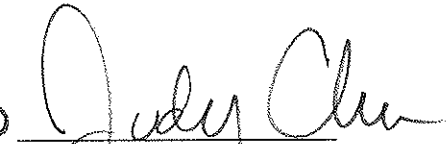

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John Sarbanes

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

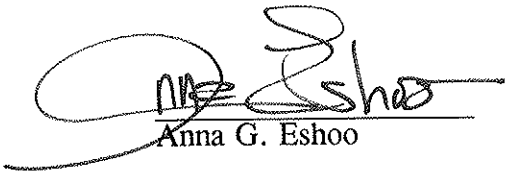
Madeleine Z. Bordallo

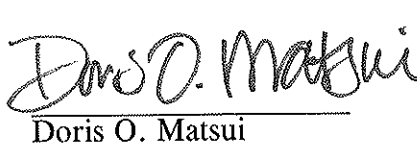
Dennis J. Kucinich

Dennis Kucinich

Tammy Baldwin

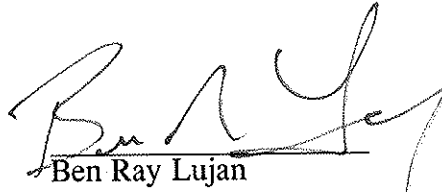
Tammy Baldwin



Anna G. Eshoo

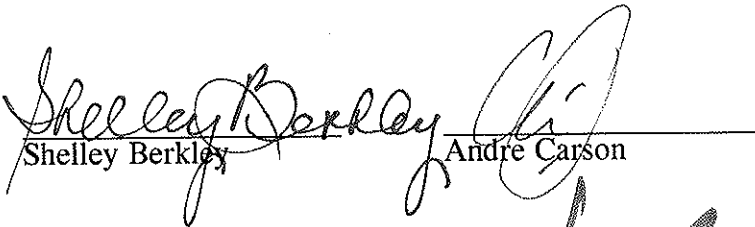

Doris O. Matsui

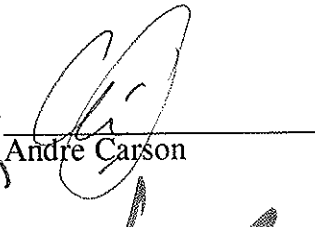

Frank Pallone, Jr.

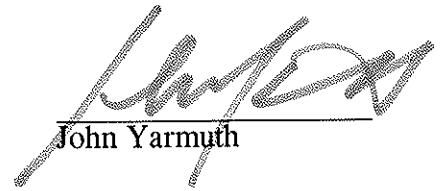

Pete Stark


Ben Ray Lujan

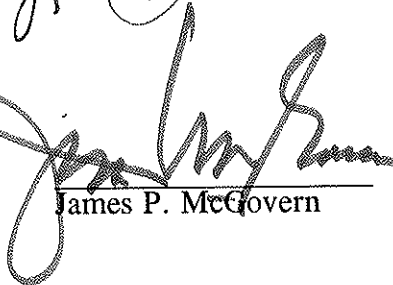

John Lewis


Shelley Berkley


Andre Carson


John Yarmuth

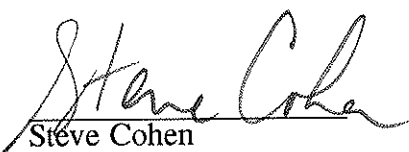

Jackie Speier

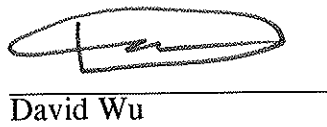

James P. McGovern

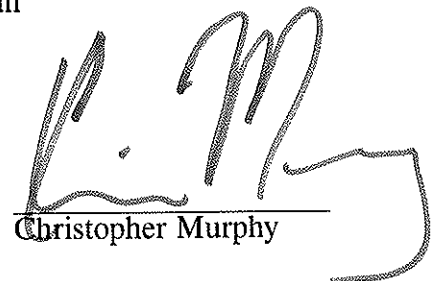

Robert Andrews


Nick Rahall


Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan


Steve Cohen


David Wu


Christopher Murphy