

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Support FY12 Funding for the Humanities

"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."

-- National Foundation on the Arts & Humanities Act of 1965

Dear Colleague,

As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Humanities Caucus, I invite you to join me in signing the below letter to Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee requesting that the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) be provided level funding at the fiscal year (FY) 2010 enacted level of \$167.5 million in FY 2012.

NEH is the single most important source of federal funding for research and scholarship in history, literature, foreign languages, and other fields that provide individuals with critical ethical, cultural, and historical perspective. All sectors of our country's education enterprise – research universities, small private institutions, state colleges, and community colleges – use NEH's competitive grants to conserve and nurture America's heritage and educate the next generation of Americans. 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.

While I recognize the need to invest taxpayer dollars wisely, I believe the relatively small investment in NEH funding pays significant dividends for our nation. I hope you will join me in supporting this request. For more information or to sign the letter, contact Kate Roetzer (x51784) in my office.

Sincerely,



David Price

Member of Congress

April XX, 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 level 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.

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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,