

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington D.C. 20515

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce:

We are writing to thank the Subcommittee for its past support of funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and respectfully request your support for robust funding for NEH in the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Interior, Environment & Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

As you know, NEH is the main source of federal support for humanities research, teaching, preservation, public programming, and related activities in the U.S., providing competitive grant funding for research and scholarship in history, literature, foreign languages, and other fields that empower individuals in every congressional district with critical perspective and knowledge. Furthermore, NEH funding allocated through state humanities councils strengthens the cultural infrastructure of local communities in every state and territory throughout the nation.

Additionally, investment in the humanities advances vital national interests by fostering a globally competitive workforce, strengthening civic engagement, preserving our cultural heritage, and protecting our national security. As our world becomes increasingly more interconnected, building a solid foundation in the humanities becomes even more critical, which is why the majority of our CIA analysts, State Department officials and staff members and diplomats at embassies across the globe are graduates of the humanities – as are leaders ranging from the late Steve Jobs to former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey.

Nationally, summer institutes and seminars for K–12 educators provide teachers with a deeper understanding of history and culture while helping them develop new teaching methods. In a five-year span, these programs have reached more than 11,000 teachers, ultimately enriching the classroom experience for an estimated 2 million students. Through its Dialogues on the Experience of War programs, the NEH also brings together veterans and civilians to reflect on

powerful literature and art to foster healing and discussion. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, NEH also allocated \$30 million directly to state and jurisdictional humanities councils which in turn distributed more than 4,500 grants to a variety of local cultural institutions. These awards were distributed in an efficient and transparent manner, allowing cultural institutions across the country to continue providing free and low-cost educational programming during the pandemic.

We understand the many difficult choices the Subcommittee faces in constructing its FY 2022 bill, but we believe that strong federal investments in the humanities are crucial for preserving America's place as a world leader in education and innovation as well as provide our nation's citizenry and workforce with the foundation necessary to tackle the challenges of today's globalized world. As billions of dollars are rightfully invested in research, education, science, and technology, we must continue to prioritize robust federal investment in the humanities. We appreciate your past support of NEH and strongly urge your support for this request.

Sincerely,



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DAVID E. PRICE

Co-Chair Congressional Humanities Caucus



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STEVE STIVERS

Co-Chair Congressional Humanities Caucus

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Member of Congress

**FY 2022 National Endowment for the Humanities Funding Letter**  
**List of 147 Signatories**  
**April 30, 2021**

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