

National Humanities Alliance

June 9, 2011

The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial
Services & General Government
B300 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515-6015

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial
Services & General Government
B300 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Chairwoman Emerson and Ranking Member Serrano:

On behalf of the National Humanities Alliance and its member organizations and institutions, I urge you to support FY 2012 funding of \$10 million for the National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC) when the Subcommittee marks up the Financial Services & General Government spending bill next week. This figure would sustain ongoing programs and allow for some new investment to meet unmet demand for project support.

This small grant-making arm of the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) supports: research and editorial work on book and/or online publication of the papers of nationally significant individuals and institutions; preservation of essential historical materials to make them more accessible to the public; development of archival programs; and promotion of national, regional and state coordination in addressing major issues relating to preserving our nation's documentary heritage, such as the common concerns of electronic records and disaster preparedness.

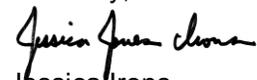
NHPRC supports publications such as the Ratification of the U.S. Constitution project, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, and the Papers of George Washington. An ever-widening audience, including, scholars, students, teachers, filmmakers, museum curators, genealogists, jurists, and the general public, use historical documentary editions and records.

NHPRC grants leverage federal dollars by requiring grantee institutions to contribute or raise major amounts of non-federal funds. Through its model cost-sharing program, in which the required non-federal contribution is 50% or more, the NHPRC has effectively employed federal leverage to preserve our documentary heritage, while ensuring other potential funders that the projects are of genuine significance, capably staffed, and well organized. NHPRC funding is the linchpin of most projects' funding structures.

In FY 2011, the NHPRC is funded at \$7 million. The Obama Administration proposed FY 2012 funding for the NHPRC of \$5 million, a figure that could devastate ongoing projects.

I urge you to support the National Historical Publications & Records Commission in FY 2012. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jessica Irons
Executive Director
National Humanities Alliance