March 23, 2015

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies  
2256 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We are writing to thank the Subcommittee for its past support of funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and to respectfully request your strong support for NEH in fiscal year (FY) 2016.

As you know, NEH is the primary source of federal support for humanities research, teaching, preservation, public programming, 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 in every state and territory across the nation.

Investment in the humanities advances vital 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 increasingly more interconnected, building a solid foundation in the humanities becomes even more vital to U.S. interests. That’s 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 the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey to Nobel Laureate and National Cancer Center Director Harold Varmus!

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 in recent years, in part 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 2016 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
Co-Chair of the Humanities Caucus
Member of Congress

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance
Co-Chair of the Humanities Caucus
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress
Rosa DeLauro
Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Mike Honda
Mike Honda
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva
Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady
Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress  

William Keating  
Member of Congress  

Anne McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress  

Bill Pascrell Jr.  
Member of Congress  

Andre' Carson  
Member of Congress  

Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress  

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress  

Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress  

Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress  

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress  

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress  

John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress  

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress  

Gerry Connolly  
Member of Congress  

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress  

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress