Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2005

The Honorable Joseph Knollenberg
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Transportation, Treasury,
Housing and Urban Development,
The Judiciary, and the District of
Columbia
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Olver
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Transportation, Treasury,
Housing and Urban Development,
The Judiciary, and the District of
Columbia
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Knollenberg and Ranking Member Olver:

With an understanding that the constraints on the budget this year have never been
greater, and that your Subcommittee faces unusually difficult choices in crafting its FY
2006 appropriations bill, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee reject the
Administration’s request to zero out funding for the National Historical Publications and
Records Commission (NHPRC). We request that the Subcommittee provide $8 million
(20 percent under its authorized level) for grants and $2 million for staffing and
administrative support for this small but essential federal program.

For over 40 years, the NHPRC has played an essential federal leadership role in
preserving and publishing important historical records that document American history.
The NHPRC has an outstanding success record of using a small amount of federal funds
to leverage other contributions. It is important that the NHPRC be able to continue
preserving our nation’s historical records, promoting regional and national coordination in
archives-related matters, and supporting a wide range of other activities relating to
America’s documentary heritage.

We applaud the work you have done in the past in support of this program, and we urge
you to support $8 million in grants plus $2 million in administrative support for the
NHPRC.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

DAVID PRICE

JIM LEACH

GARY ACKERMAN

TAMMY BALDWIN