

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 30, 2017

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 respectfully request your support of a funding level of \$155 million in the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) Interior 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 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.

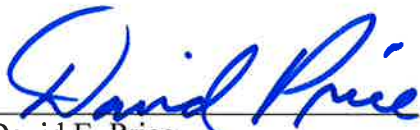
Additionally, investment in the humanities advances vital national interests by fostering a globally competitive workforce, strengthening civic engagement, preserving our cultural heritage, and protecting our national security. As our world becomes increasingly more interconnected, building a solid foundation 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.

NEH has been an excellent steward of its annual federal appropriation, successfully leveraging more than \$4.8 billion in non-federal support (adjusted for inflation) between 1965 and 2014. Currently, demand for humanities project support far exceeds funding availability, and

non-federal support for the humanities has declined in recent years, in part due to the current economic downturn. Sadly, 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 each year.

We understand the many difficult choices your Subcommittee faces in constructing its FY 2018 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. We appreciate your past support of NEH and strongly urge your support for this request.

Sincerely,



David E. Price  
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress



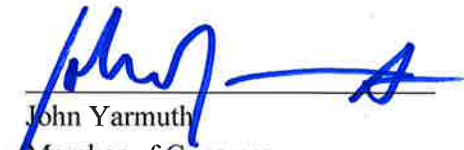
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin  
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Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress



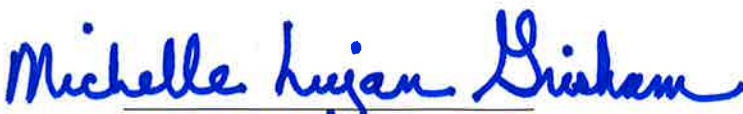
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



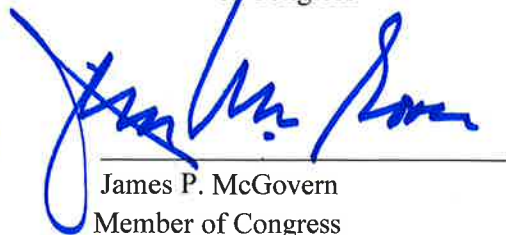
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress



Chris Smith  
Member of Congress



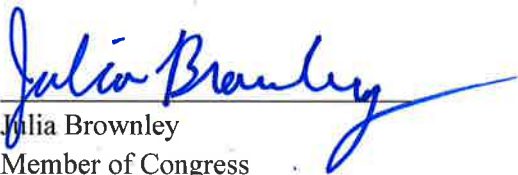
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



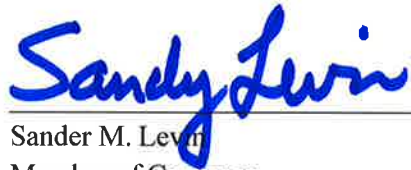
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



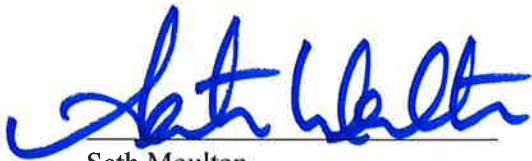
Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



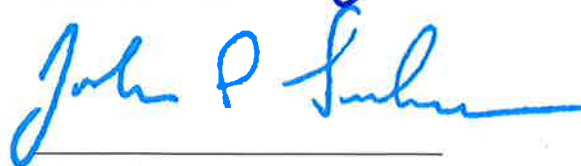
Bill Pascrell  
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Jerry McNerney  
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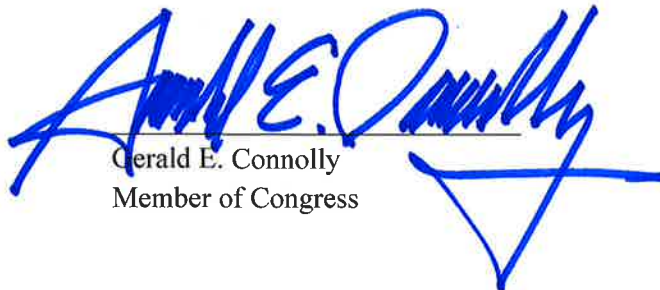
Seth Moulton  
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John Sarbanes  
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Darren Soto  
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Gerald E. Connolly  
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Keith Ellison  
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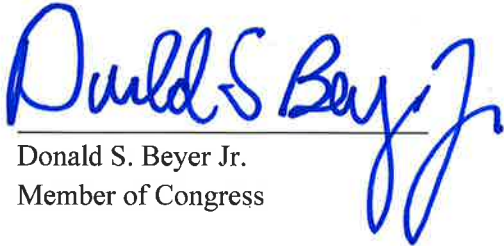
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Member of Congress



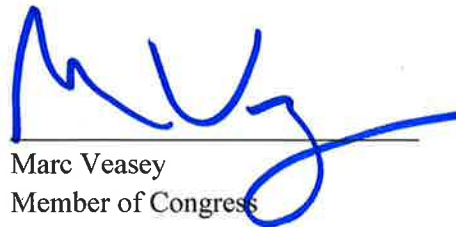
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Danny K. Davis

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Diana DeGette

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Member of Congress

Denny Heck

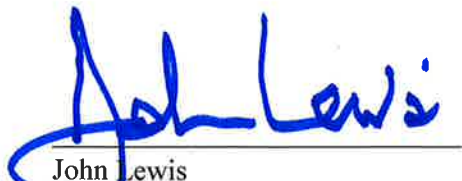
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



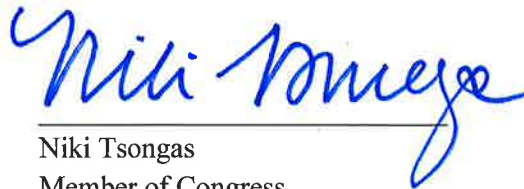
Sheila Jackson-Lee  
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Hank Johnson  
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John Lewis  
Member of Congress



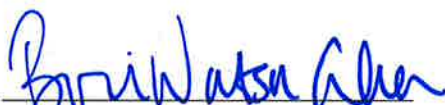
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



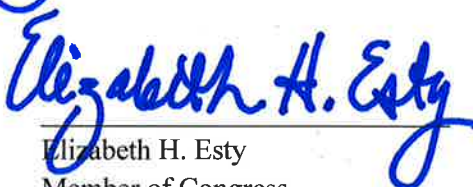
Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



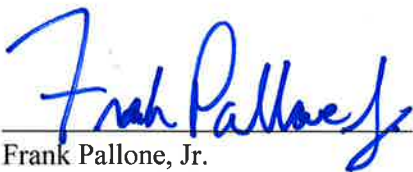
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



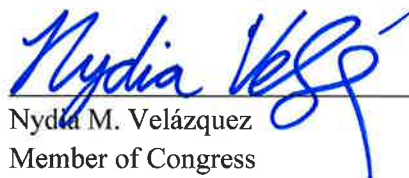
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
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John Conyers  
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress



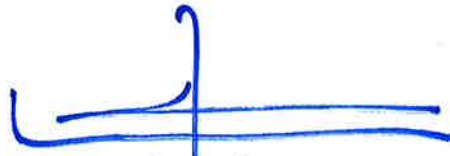
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Colleen Hanabusa  
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Brian Higgins  
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Jared Huffman  
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Doris Matsui  
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Brad Schneider  
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Elise Stefanik  
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Steve Stivers  
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Filemon Vela  
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Suzanne Bonamici  
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Salud Carbajal  
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Yvette D. Clarke  
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Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress





Ann McLane Kuster  
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Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



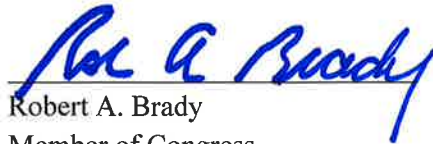
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Dina Titus  
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Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



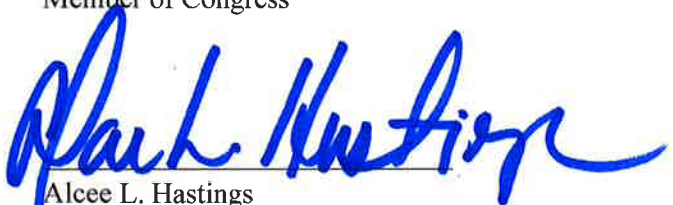
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Mike Coffman  
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Steve Cohen  
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Alcee L. Hastings  
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Pramila Jayapal  
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Brenda L. Lawrence  
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Ted W. Lieu  
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Raul Ruiz  
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Krysten Sinema  
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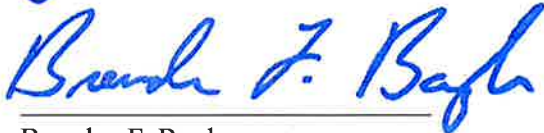
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Jackie Speier  
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Alma S. Adams  
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Brendan F. Boyle  
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Judy Chu  
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Jim Costa  
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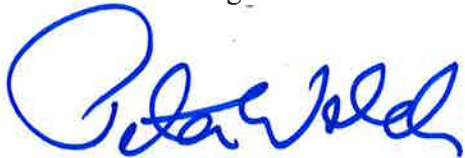
Collin C. Peterson  
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Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



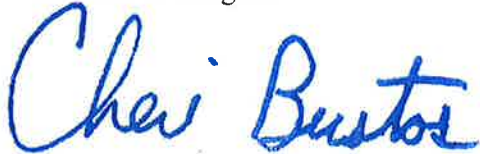
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



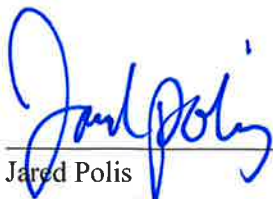
C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger  
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Linda Sanchez  
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress



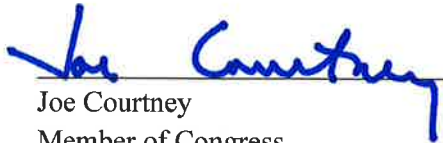
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



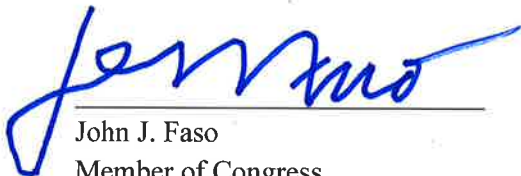
Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



John J. Faso  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress




Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



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Carlos Curbello  
Member of Congress



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Vincente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress



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Tom Suozzi  
Member of Congress



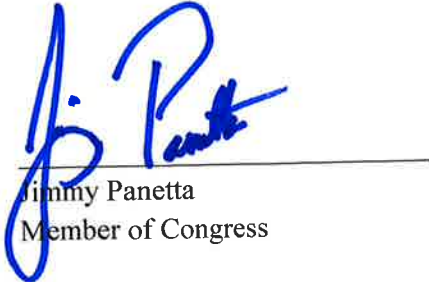
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Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



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Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress