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 at least $155 million in the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) 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. NEH has also shown an ability to rapidly respond to conditions on the ground, providing $1 million in emergency grants to assist local organizations in stabilizing and recovering historical collections following the devastation from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Currently, demand for humanities project support far exceeds funding availability, and non-federal support for the humanities has declined in recent years. 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 understand the many difficult choices your Subcommittee faces in constructing its FY 2019 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 Price
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
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