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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
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,