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March 28, 2017

Sen. Mike Enzi, Chairman
Committee on the Budget
379A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Bernie Sanders, Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sens. Enzi and Sanders:

I am writing to strongly urge you to continue the great investments in furthering the humanities through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). As NEH itself notes, its role since 1965 has been to support museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, media, and individual scholars. NEH grants strengthen teaching and learning in schools and colleges, facilitate research and original scholarship, provide opportunities for lifelong learning, preserve and provide access to cultural and educational resources, and strengthen the institutional base of the humanities.

In the Consortium, NEH grants have greatly enriched students' exposure to and experiences with the humanities, supported historical and cultural programming, and supported the work of outstanding faculty scholars. A partial list of recent NEH sponsorships includes:

- **American University:** Support for the "We the People" collaborative grant to document the role of the communities in the **Great Dismal Swamp** in, for example, the Revolutionary War and Civil War.
- **The Catholic University of America:** Support for work on the **history and creation of local films** documenting moments in ordinary people's lives in the early and mid-20th century.
- **Gallaudet University:** Support for work in the **Capturing Deaf Heritage** work documenting deaf cultural heritage in general and New York City in particular. The work involves significant creation of digital archives.
- **The George Washington University:** Support for the **Eleanor Roosevelt Papers**, a research center in collaboration with the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, the Office of the First Lady of the United States, and the Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs of the U.S. State Department.

- **George Mason University:** Support for various **projects supporting P-12, college, and university teachers** providing digital teaching materials in such areas as the fall of communism in 1989 and the history of slavery.
- **Georgetown University:** Support for the **Bioethics Research Library** through a challenge grant.
- **Howard University:** Support for the **HBCU Digital Humanities Initiative** to generate tools and content in African American literary studies.
- **Montgomery College (MD):** Support for the **Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship Program** and the **Humanities Internship Program** (placing community college students as interns at the Library of Congress, U.S. Holocaust Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution), as well as the creation of the **Global Humanities Institute** supporting faculty and students.
- **Trinity Washington University:** Support for the **NEH Summer Scholar Program** supporting K-12 teachers in learning about the **Civil War**.
- **University of Maryland, College Park:** Support for the work by the **Freedmen and Southern Society** documenting family and kinship, law, and justice in the transition from slavery to freedom, and to support the **Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities** work in the digital humanities.

As is clear from these examples, NEH support to the colleges and universities in the Consortium support projects ranging from those of major historical importance to support for teachers at all levels in our educational systems to unique internship opportunities for community college students at some of our country's most important institutions to creating material for and preserving historical material in digital archives.

Simply put, NEH funds the preservation of our national heritage and ensures that future generations will be able to learn about and experience that heritage. The investments are modest. The returns shape the lives of our citizens.

I urge you to join us in protecting our country's heritage and providing opportunities for teachers and students to learn about that heritage. On behalf of the institutions in the consortium listed on our letterhead, I urge you to continue funding the NEH.

Respectfully yours,

John C. Cavanaugh, Ph.D.
President & CEO