Dear Chairwoman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce:

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 $204 million for NEH in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Interior, Environment & Related Agencies 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 in every congressional district 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.

Nationally, summer institutes and seminars for K–12 educators provide teachers with a deeper understanding of history and culture while helping them develop new teaching methods. In a five-year span, these programs have reached more than 11,000 teachers, ultimately enriching the classroom experience for an estimated 2 million students. Through its Dialogues on the Experience of War programs, the NEH also brings together veterans and civilians to reflect on powerful literature and art to foster healing and discussion. In relation to current events, NEH has a rich history of supporting efforts to understand geopolitical contexts and NEH-supported English translations of Ukrainian literature has helped bring Ukrainian literature to broader American audiences.
We understand the many difficult choices the Subcommittee faces in constructing its FY 2023 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. 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 appreciate your past support of NEH and strongly urge your support for this request.

Sincerely,

David E. Price
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Troy Carter
Member of Congress

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Jennifer González-Colón  
Member of Congress
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Jim Himes
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress
Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

Al Lawson  
Member of Congress

Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

Mike Levin  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress