

September 20, 2013

Dear Representative,

We write to express our serious concern with the drastic funding cut for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) contained in the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill, as passed out of subcommittee last July. A cut of this magnitude would have a profoundly negative impact on American interests at home and abroad.

The humanities reach across a broad spectrum of economic activity. They provide workers with the critical thinking and communication skills needed to thrive in an information economy. They broaden our comprehension of other nations, enhancing our competitiveness in an overwhelmingly global marketplace. Skills learned from the humanities are a necessary complement to technical education in our interconnected economy, allowing workers to successfully incorporate their training into the workplace. The abilities to read, write, comprehend and analyze are highly sought by employers struggling to fill jobs in emerging fields, with companies spending more than \$3 billion annually just on remedial writing training for their employees, according to the National Humanities Alliance.

The humanities also provide the language, literacy and cultural understanding needed for successful diplomatic, intelligence and military initiatives overseas. Our security depends on a deeper grasp of the ideologies, religions and cultures of diverse communities across the world, and humanities education provides that knowledge to those who protect and represent us on a global level.

Moreover, by their very nature, the humanities preserve and expand the fundamental underpinnings of American society. Humanities research provides scholars with an opportunity to apply their expertise to solving many of America's great challenges. Through research and teaching, the humanities strengthen our nation, promoting an active and informed civic life through a greater knowledge of our common cultural heritage.

Despite a relatively small funding level, the NEH is a key component in enhancing our economic competitiveness and in advancing our national security interests. The thousands of grants and other programs supported by the NEH are critical to these endeavors. We strongly urge you to support the level of funding for the NEH proposed in the President's budget request, and reject efforts to slash funding and damage our economy, security and cultural standing.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad  
President

MCB/lw

On behalf of:

ACT

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Community Colleges

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Association of University Professors

American Council on Education

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

APPA

Association of American Colleges and Universities

Association of American Law Schools

Association of American Universities

Association of Community College Trustees

Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Association of Research Libraries

Council for Opportunity in Education

Council of Independent Colleges

Educational Testing Service

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

University Professional & Continuing Education Association