

1994

African-American Museum (1993-1994): Correspondence 03

Robert McC. Adams

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D.C. 20560

U.S.A.

May 11, 1994

Honorable Claiborne Pell
Committee on Rules and Administration
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

As you are aware, the Committee on Rules and Administration will hold a mark-up on Thursday, May 26, 1994, to consider several pieces of legislation. One of the bills to be considered is H.R.877, the National African American Museum Act, which will establish the museum at the Smithsonian Institution's Arts and Industries Building located on the Mall. I believe the mark-up on May 26th may well be the last opportunity to move this legislation before the end of the 103rd Congress.

This legislation, which had passed the Senate during the Second Session of the 102nd Congress (S.523, passed by unanimous consent on October 3, 1993), has been stalled in Committee due to the objections of one of the Committee members. While the majority of Committee members have expressed support for the legislation, the Committee has been unable to reach a quorum to consider the bill and have it favorably reported. I have been assured by Chairman Ford that the Committee will take up H.R.877 as soon as a quorum has been reached. As stated in my letter of November 4, 1993, to Chairman Ford, which I enclose, the Smithsonian Institution will seek no additional federal funds for the museum during the next several budget cycles. Instead, we intend to seek the most economical way to create this museum focusing on the public-private partnership model that we have used in other large capital projects, most notably those of the National Museum of the American Indian and more recently with the National Air and Space Museum Extension at Dulles.

As I stated earlier, I believe this may be the final opportunity to move this legislation before Congress adjourns sine die. Your support of the legislation is critical. Of equal importance is your presence at the May 26 mark-up so that the Committee may reach a quorum and take action on H.R.877. Without a strong turnout among Committee members, consideration of H.R.877 again will be deferred due to a procedural objection. I hope you will demonstrate your commitment to this legislation by

attending the Committee mark-up and supporting favorable consideration of H.R.877. My staff will be in contact with your legislative director as we get closer to the mark-up to confirm your availability.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding H.R.877, please contact me at (202) 357-1846. I thank you in advance for your assistance in moving this important piece of legislation forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert McC. Adams".

Robert McC. Adams
Secretary