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Lynne V. Cheney

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

THE CHAIRMAN

November 25, 1988

Dr. John H. Hammer, Director
National Humanities Alliance
1527 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Dr. Hammer:

The National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, which authorizes the National Endowment for the Humanities, expires on September 30, 1990. We have been informed that the House Subcommittee which has oversight authority for the Endowment intends to begin Congressional hearings on reauthorization of our agency in the late spring or early summer of 1989. In keeping with this timetable, the Endowment intends to submit a reauthorization proposal to Congress in the spring of 1989, so that such a proposal can be fully considered as the committees of Congress develop legislation to reauthorize the Endowment.

A number of steps are involved in the reauthorization process, including formal consultation with the National Council on the Humanities and the Office of Management and Budget. As part of this process, we are contacting a number of organizations and groups that deal frequently with the Endowment and are thus affected in significant ways by the Endowment's legislation and are familiar with the issues in the agency's reauthorization.

I invite you to send us your suggestions, should you have any, about changes that you feel should be made in the Endowment's authorizing legislation in order to advance the humanities in the United States. I assure you that we will carefully consider all suggestions we receive. For your convenience, I am enclosing a copy of the Endowment's current legislation. I understand that you will share this letter with your member organizations.

I might note that we do not now foresee any major changes in our legislative language; we are generally pleased with the overall substance of the current legislation. The changes we are now contemplating will be essentially minor changes or technical amendments to the law, rather than profound modifications affecting our mission, objectives, or basic procedures.

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Because we are following a tight timetable, I would appreciate receiving your comments at your earliest convenience, but no later than January 15, 1989. Please send your suggestions to:

Rex O. Arney, General Counsel
National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 530
Washington, D.C. 20506

Mr. Arney may be reached at (202) 786-0322, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lynne V. Cheney
Chairman

Enclosure