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7-11-1989

## Sub-Grants (1989-1990): Correspondence 12

Roderick S. French

John H. Hammer

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*NEH re grants*

The **NHA** National Humanities Alliance

11 July 1989

**COPY**

The Honorable Sidney R. Yates  
Chairman, Interior and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Yates:

The Board of the National Humanities Alliance met on 5 July 1989 in a special session to be briefed on the proposed National Endowment for the Humanities appropriation for fiscal year 1990 and to discuss the changes you have proposed in the procedures on re grants of the two Endowments. We debated at length on how the Alliance and its members might best contribute to the Congress's consideration of these matters.

The Board was unanimous in its praise for your longtime leadership and resolute nurturing of the federal role in support of American scholarly and artistic activities. They were delighted to learn that an additional \$8.08 million had been recommended for FY-1990, especially in the initiative for the conservation and/or preservation of ethnographic materials, and the added resources for state programs. The Board has urged the members of the Alliance to communicate their support for the House Appropriations Committee's recommendations for NEH and NEA for next year's budget.

The Board also recognized the intent of the report language that accompanies the budget recommendations for the Endowments and the political realities that necessitated this language. We are concerned, as we know you are, that the development of procedures to assure that "the chairmen and councils of NEA and NEH [are] as thoroughly informed and responsible for the subgrants as they are for direct grants" may impair the effectiveness of the regranting institutions in planning, administering, and responding to the demands of the scholarly disciplines. In addition, we are concerned that the important role that the regranting agencies have played over the years in extending the range of scholarship that could be supported by federal funds will be diminished. In our view, the activities of the regranting agencies complement the work of NEH by adding special experience and expertise without a loss of the unquestioned quality of the scholarly activities receiving support. We trust that you will extend your attentive concern for the Endowments to making certain that any procedures developed respond to these concerns. We hope to have an opportunity to assist you in this effort.

The Hon Sidney R. Yates  
11 July 1989  
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For you information, we enclose an updated roster of the Board of Directors of the Alliance.

Yours sincerely,



Roderick S. French  
Vice President for Academic Affairs  
George Washington University  
as  
President  
National Humanities Alliance



John H. Hammer  
Director  
National Humanities Alliance