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Letters (1979): Correspondence 02

Claiborne Pell

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December 14, 1979

Honorable Joseph D. Duffey
Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the Slater Mill Historic Site in Rhode Island has recently applied to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive exhibition on the history of the textile industry in Rhode Island. The application has been submitted to the Museums and Historical Organizations category of the Division of Public Programs.

The Slater Mill Historic Site, established as a public monument in 1924, has developed into one of Rhode Island's most unique museums with a superb collection of operating machinery as well as interpretive exhibits on the history of the early textile industry in New England.

The planning grant will permit the museum staff to organize an exciting exhibition using its own collection of textile machinery as the focal point. An extensive social history and interpretive program focusing on the lives of the textile workers will accompany the technological exhibits.

I want to express my strong personal support for the grant proposal from the Slater Mill and hope, that after careful consideration, the Endowment will act favorably in it.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell