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April 23, 1990

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Committee on Labor and Human Resources
Chairman, Subcommittee on Education, Arts & Humanities
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6300

Dear Senator Pell:

I am pleased to respond to the questions you submitted to me for further information regarding the reauthorization of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

1) UEH's Relationship to Utah State Government
Five members of the UEH Board of Directors are appointed by the Governor. We do not receive any state financial support at this time. My Board is pursuing prospects of obtaining state funds, but do not wish to jeopardize the independent integrity of their grant-making process by becoming a state agency subject to political pressures and party politics.

2) Recommendation for Three-Year Reauthorization
I would refer to my written statement in which the Federation of State Humanities Councils recommends a three- rather than a five-year reauthorization period in order to more frequently involve Congress with NEH and its services to the nation and to individual states. We are proud of what we do and feel the Congress needs to know more about our program and understand more fully how important we are to maintaining an educated and knowledgeable democracy.

We thank the Congress for its support but also wish to request that it consider recognizing the humanities and their benefits to our society equally with those of the sciences and the arts.

Sincerely,

Delmont R. Oswald
Executive Director