

4-30-1996

## Appropriations (1996): Correspondence 06

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 1996

Honorable Ralph Regula, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior  
Committee on Appropriations  
B308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula,

The National Endowment for the Humanities is a key part of preserving and promoting our cultural heritage. As the Interior Subcommittee considers its FY1997 funding allocations, we want to express our support for a minimum of \$110 million for the NEH, the appropriated level for FY1996.

As the single largest source of support nationwide for the humanities, the NEH plays an important role in preserving and promoting the American heritage that we hold dear -- the papers of Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Frederick Douglass; important films on the Civil War, FDR and the women's suffrage movement; and upcoming films on the history of the West, President Teddy Roosevelt and World War I.

The federal role in the humanities also broadens access to books and artifacts that constitute America's history by preserving brittle books and newspapers. This effort alone is priceless, and is one the private sector has never been able to undertake. Access is also broadened through museum exhibitions, library reading and discussion groups, and through the important work of the state humanities councils, whose programs in each of the 50 states increase the public's participation in the humanities.

At the FY1996 funding level, NEH is already losing ground. Many of the presidential papers projects underway will have to be terminated before completion; as many as 20,000 brittle books will disintegrate and be lost for all time; and 230,000 historically significant newspapers will also be lost. We realize that you face difficult funding decisions, and that your very important goal -- and ours -- is to balance the budget in six years. However, we believe that the thirty-six percent cut already absorbed by NEH constitutes its fair contribution to a balanced budget.

We also understand that because the Endowment remains unauthorized, you may face a tough situation on the floor. We want you to know that you have our full support.

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Thank you for taking the time to consider our views on this issue, and please feel free to contact any of us with questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

PETER G. TORKILDSEN  
Member of Congress

TILLIE K. FOWLER  
Member of Congress

NANCY L. JOHNSON  
Member of Congress

MICHAEL N. CASTLE  
Member of Congress

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SCOTT L. BLUG  
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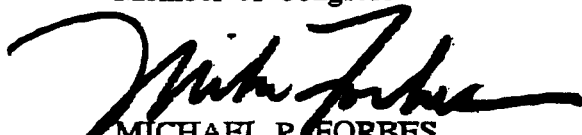
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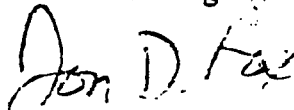
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Member of Congress



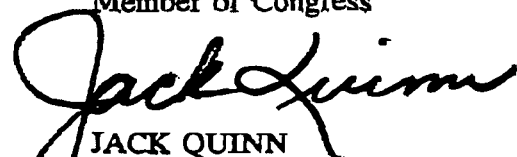
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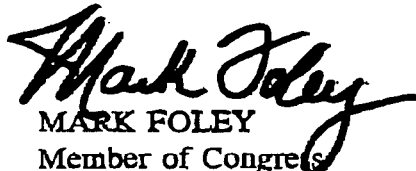
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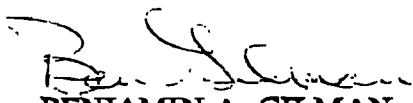
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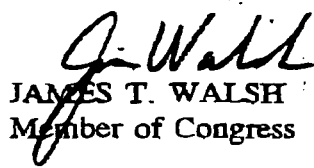
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Member of Congress



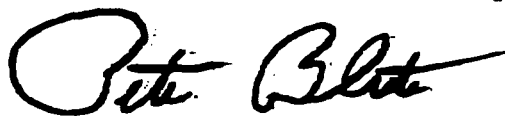
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PETER BLUTE  
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