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National Endowment for the Humanities: Council Reappointments (1984): Correspondence 09

Catherine R. Stimpson

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CATHARINE R. STIMPSON

54 SEVENTH AVENUE SOUTH
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10014

May 29, 1984

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
Committee on Labor and Human Resources
SD-428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

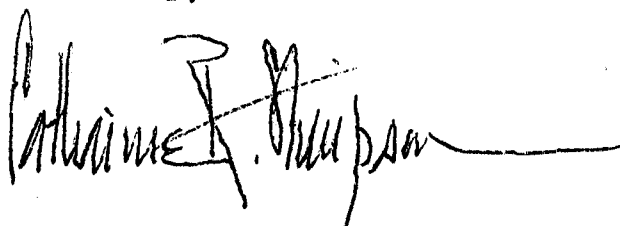
I am writing to you because of your extraordinary record in support of the arts and humanities in the United States.

As a Professor of English, as Chair of the New York State Council for the Humanities, I am terribly worried by the list of recent nominees to the National Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Surely, the National Council was meant to set non-partisan policies that would support the many excellences of the humanities in the United States. Surely, too, Council membership, though broadly based, was to be given to people who had some vision of the humanities, some real experience with them, some distinction of effort on their behalf. However, the list of recent nominees seems to show a narrow, partisan, political point-of-view.

Is it possible that hearings will be held on these nominees? NEH matters too much to too many of us to permit it to become a reward to people who know more about sectarian politics than about learning.

Thank you for whatever you might do in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catharine R. Stimpson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.