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MEMORANDUM

July 15, 1996

To: Senator, Tom
From: PDW
Re: Arts & Humanities Appropriations Update

The Interior subcommittee chaired by Senator Gorton met last Friday morning. While we had worked hard with the appropriators and thought everything was on track, we encountered a few ugly surprises, most to the detriment of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The actions taken that we do not support are:

- \$10 million was cut from NEH's current budget (\$99.5 million was approved);
- Language that permitted the NEA, NEH and IMS to solicit and invest funds was eliminated at the last minute due to CBO objections;
- Language that permits local arts "groups" to subgrant was included, making it a non-conferencable item. (Senators Kennedy, Jeffords and Kassebaum strongly oppose this re-granting, as do we; Regula talked Gorton into it.)

You will recall that the House passed its FY'97 Interior Appropriations bill with NEH, NEA, and IMS receiving the Committee levels of \$104.5 million, \$99.5 million, and \$21 million, respectively. We had hoped for current level funding, or even a slight increase as it was implied that Senator Stevens might introduce an amendment requesting such.

NEH was also omitted from the statement that the Senate disagrees with the House about the elimination of the Endowments. We have been promised that a technical correction will be made and the NEH added. We have also been told that the fund raising language might be added after all.

The most serious problem is getting the \$10 million back as the money has been spread around for members' projects. Without it, the NEH must cancel its summer institute for teachers and discontinue the 40 current projects that are collecting and publishing the presidential papers. Senator Bumpers joined Senators Cochran and Bennett in objecting to the NEH cut and will work with Senator Cochran to try to find the money somewhere. If you can find the time and are willing, a word from you to any and all of the Senators mentioned above supporting the restoration of \$10 million to NEH would be helpful. The full committee meets tomorrow, Tuesday.