Claiborne Pell

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The Honorable Lynne V. Cheney  
Chairman  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20506  

Dear Madame Chairman:  

I want to thank you for whatever you may have done to speed the nominations of Professors Malbin and Mansfield. They are impressive candidates who will surely bring experience and distinction to the work of the NEH Council.  

Before the Committee proceeds to consider the three Council nominees who are now pending before it, I would appreciate having Ms. Iannone’s answers to the following two questions.  

1. What are your views of the peer panel review process? In your opinion, what is its function within the larger framework of the National Endowment for the Humanities?  

2. As a Council member, under what circumstances would you vote to overturn a recommendation of a peer review panel?  

Once these answers are received, I will recommend that all pending nominees for the NEH Council be considered by the Committee on Labor and Human Resources. What with a Congressional recess about to begin, these names are likely to be on the agenda at the first Committee meeting in June.  

With warm regards,  

Ever sincerely,  

Claiborne Pell  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Education, Arts & Humanities