7-14-1983

Museum Services Act (1984): Correspondence 06

Claiborne Pell

July 14, 1983

Honorable Lilla Tower
Director
Institute of Museum Services
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Lilla:

Thank you very much for your recent note and for sending me a copy of the Institute's final regulations.

After reviewing the comments contained in the Appendix section, I can better appreciate the Board's decision to limit funding to three out of five years for any one institution. However, should the IMS budget increase substantially in the next few years, this limitation would perhaps seem unnecessarily restrictive and I would hope the Board would consider rescinding this section at such time.

My objection to the regulation concerning Challenge Grant recipients remains firm and it is my belief that the commenters on this section made a cogent case against this new limitation. Our intent in drafting the Museum Services Act, was to give all types of museums an unrestricted opportunity to compete for general operating support funds. The fact that some museums may also be recipients of Challenge Grants should not restrict them from applying to the Institute's unique program of general operating support. Our objective was then and is now to assist our nation's museums as directly and equitably as possible.

Since these issues continue to be of particular concern to the museum community, I intend to explore them more fully in our hearings next year on the reauthorization of the Institute.

I appreciate the efforts that you and the Museum Services Board have made and look forward to continuing close contact in the future.

With warm regards,

And all best personal Good wishes

Ever sincerely,

AC/ap

Claiborne Pell

cc: Hon. Dr. Peter H. Raven