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Claiborne Pell

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August 15, 1979

Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
Governor
State of West Virginia
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Governor Rockefeller:

Thank you very much for your recent letter with your thoughtful comments on the proposed changes in the structure of the state humanities organizations.

I want you to know that I am aware of the great strides made by many of the state-based humanities committees as a result of the 1976 legislative changes. The Humanities Foundation of West Virginia is one that has developed an especially vital program with a healthy variety of programs, a broad-based membership, and a good working relationship with State government.

The aspects of the program that continue to concern me have to do with the critical need for increasing the accountability and the visibility of these "public" programs. As long as the Committees are suspended halfway between a Federal agency and the public in each state, they will suffer from a lack of visibility that only a true Federal-State partnership can provide. State government, I believe, needs to be drawn into the furtherance of the humanities and humanities programming in a way that is simply impossible as long as private organizations are used.

I, too, was sorry that you were not able to testify at the Humanities reauthorization hearing, but the testimony offered by Mr. Norman Pagan was found to be particularly useful and informative by the Subcommittee.

With warmest regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC:CF
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