7-25-1983

Museum Services Act (1984): Correspondence 07

Peter H. Raven

Missouri Botanical Garden

July 25, 1983

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Committee on Labor and
Human Resources
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

Thank you very much for the copy of your letter to Lilla Tower concerning the overlap between Challenge Grants and general operating support in the IMS. The issue that I am really most interested in personally, as I indicated in testimony before Representative Yates, is that the kind of major funding represented by Challenge Grants be made available to museums of all kinds, including science museums, botanical gardens, zoos, and allied institutions, which receive well over half the total visits to museums, and not merely be restricted to those museums which fall under the purview of the Endowments. The existing situation means that a major section of the funding available for museums goes to a very restricted section of museums because of the way in which the Endowments are (properly) circumscribed. It was really for this philosophical reason that I advocated restricting general operating support grants by the Institute of Museum Services to those institutions not receiving Challenge Grants from the Endowments.

On the other hand, the arguments made in your letter of July 14 are ones which I have voiced myself many times during the history of IMS, and ones in which I fundamentally believe. If there is ample funding in IMS, then it is clearly in the best interests of the museum community to provide general operating support without reference to any other funds being available from any other source.

Now that Lilla Tower has resigned, we shall, of course, have to get to know Susan Phillips, whom I have barely met so far. At any rate, I look forward to working with you and your staff on issues of this sort in the future, and most sincerely want to appreciate all of the support that you have given to museums through the years.

With good wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Peter H. Raven
Director

PHR:cc

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