Phyllis Franklin

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Dear Senator Pell:

I write to say how much I appreciate having had the opportunity to talk with you about the President's nomination of Carol Iannone for service on the NEH National Council for the Humanities. As you know, the MLA fears that this nomination will drastically lower the standards used to judge NEH council members for many years to come.

Unfortunately, this nomination has become far more acrimonious than anyone could have anticipated, and I regret that the MLA, even inadvertently, has added to the difficult decisions that you undoubtedly face every day.

While I was in Washington, I visited other members of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, and I learned that a number of committee members look to you for the way they will vote on this nomination. Knowing your long-term commitment to the NEA and the NEH, I am confident that you will give careful thought to the issues involved and reach what you consider to be the best decision for the health of the NEH.

I send under separate cover a number of MLA publications so that you can see—contrary to the harsh Evans and Novak column—what the MLA is really about. With good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Franklin
Executive Director