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Appropriations (1996): Memorandum 08

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MEMORANDUM

To: Senator and Tom
From: DFR
Re: Interior Appropriations

We are expecting Senator Dole to bring the Interior Appropriations bill to the floor. This bill contains, inter alia, funding for the Arts and Humanities Endowments and the Institute of Museum Services. As reported out of Committee, the bill provides \$115 million for NEH (down from \$177.7 million this year), \$99.5 million for NEA (down from \$162.4 million this year) and \$21 million for IMS (down from \$28.7 million this year). Senator Leahy offered an amendment in Committee to raise these agencies' appropriations, failing by two votes. Senators Simpson, Jeffords, Leahy, and yourself (pending your approval) are on an amendment to do so again on the floor, taking as an offset 3% of administrative funds for all Interior agencies. I have prepared statements in support of that amendment as well as in opposition to any amendments that may arise to further cut the agencies or to set aside more money directly to the states.

In addition, Senator Hutchinson recently dropped in a new reauthorization of the agencies -- one which would send more to the states and would support only institutions. She claims, I believe sincerely, to be a firm supporter of the agencies. Nevertheless, her bill is a poor one and both NEA and NEH believe that it would signal the end of a viable federal role in the arts and humanities. There is a very slim possibility that Senator Hutchinson will seek to amend the Interior Appropriations bill to include her authorization legislation. If neither Senator Jeffords nor Senator Kassebaum seek to table that amendment or substitute our Committee's bill for her bill, I think it would be most important for your leadership on this issue for you to so move. Otherwise, we would be left with an up or down vote on a well intentioned but damaging form of reauthorization.