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Kate Swift

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Senator Christopher J. Dodd  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Chris,  

We're sorry not to have seen you in East Haddam last week when we were back for a few (hot!) days to get the house ready for our summer tenants. Their names, incidentally, are George and Alison Ainsworth. 

I am writing you now as a constituent, as well as a friend, on the matter of Carol Iannone's appointment to the National Council on the Humanities. 

I don't know Carol Iannone, but I have seen her curriculum vitae and read her "Literature by Quota" in the March issue of Commentary. It seems to me that it can only be because of her views as expressed in that article that President Bush has nominated her for the NEH Council. Her brief c.v. shows clearly that her academic and professional credentials in no way constitute an "established record of distinguished service and scholarship or creativity," as the enabling legislation requires of Council members. While her literary opinions, political as they are, should never disqualify her from appointment to the Council, they cannot substitute for a lack of scholarly or creative achievement. 

When the Committee on Labor and Human Resources considers the Iannone nomination later this month, I hope you'll keep these thoughts in mind. 

With all warm wishes, 

Kate Swift