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Letters (1980): Correspondence 63

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
HUMAN RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 10, 1980

Honorable Joseph D. Duffey
Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the New England Aquarium has recently submitted an application for a Challenge Grant to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Aquarium, which made an unsuccessful bid for a Challenge Grant last year, has made what I believe to be a significant effort in the last year to demonstrate its strong commitment to the humanities. Several new exhibitions are being planned that incorporate humanities themes. One of these, entitled "Viewpoints from Humans and Nature", will integrate the biological presentations with data from our own rich cultural heritage.

While biology is indeed the primary field explored, the Aquarium does present important humanities issues to the public. It does this to such an extent that it is perceived by many members of the science community as a museum and therefore not eligible for science research-related funds.

The Challenge Grant the New England Aquarium seeks will serve as the cornerstone for a major fund-raising campaign which will help the institution meet escalating operating costs and keep admission charges within everyone's reach.

I want to express my strong support for this grant request from an institution which is a particular source of pride to all of us from New England. It is my hope that, after careful consideration, the Endowment will act favorably on it.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell