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The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in regard to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS), the independent and non-partisan agency that advises both the executive and legislative branches on library and information policy.

As members of the Senate authorizing committee concerned with library issues, we wish to draw your attention to the fact that the terms of several members of the Commission expired on July 19th and should be filled soon if the Commission is to proceed most effectively with its functions.

This matter is of particular urgency because the Commission must move ahead with planning for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services which was authorized nearly one year ago by Public Law 100-382 and is to be held no later than September 1991. The recommendations coming out of this Conference will be of help to us in shaping all future library legislation.

There are currently six Commission nominations for you to make out of a total of fourteen. The fifteenth member is, by statute, the Librarian of Congress. In accordance with the NCLIS law, five of these Commission members shall be professional librarians or information specialists with the remainder being persons having a special competence or interest in the needs of our society for library and information services.

Now that the White House Conference has received partial funding in the 1989 supplemental appropriations bill, the Commission must begin planning this important endeavor in earnest. It is crucial, therefore, that high caliber individuals with strong library and information science credentials be nominated to make the Commission a truly effective body at this especially critical time.

With regard and respect we are,

Nancy Landon Kassebaum
Orrin G. Hatch
Clifford P. Pell
Paul Simon