

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We write to thank the Subcommittee for its previous support, and to urge you to support robust funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Office of Museum Services (OMS) in the FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. The Office of Museum Services is currently authorized to receive \$38.6 million annually.

Despite its small size, the IMLS Office of Museum Services is the largest dedicated source of investment in our nation's museums, which employ over 400,000 Americans and directly contribute \$21 billion to the U.S. economy each year. OMS funding multiplies this economic impact by helping museums reach more visitors and spur community development. In addition to their economic benefits, OMS grants also support museums' advancements in areas such as technology, lifelong community learning, and conservation and preservation. These successes notwithstanding, only a small fraction of the nation's museums are currently being reached and many highly rated grant applications go unfunded.

The demand for museum services is greater than ever. At a time when school and community resources are strained, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, they welcome more than 55 million schoolchildren, bring art, science and cultural heritage into communities, and partner with other nonprofits to meet the specific needs of their local population. In addition, our nation's museums are opening their doors to more people than ever with over 850 million visits each year – with many of these visitors offered free or reduced admission. Museums are also part of a robust nonprofit community working to address a wide range of our nation's greatest challenges, from conducting medical research to helping veterans heal physically and psychologically, and from creating energy efficient public buildings to collecting food for needy families.

In 2010, the Institute of Museum and Library Services was unanimously reauthorized by both the House and Senate. The agency is highly accountable, and its competitive, peer-reviewed grants leverage significant private resources while supporting museums in every state. The reauthorization contained several provisions to further support museums, particularly at the state level, but many of the recently authorized activities cannot be accomplished without sustained funding.

We urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services for FY 2016 to support the important work museums are doing in our districts. This vital funding will aid museums of all types and enable them to continue bolstering the economy, serving our schools and communities, and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations.

Again, we appreciate the Subcommittee's prior support for OMS and request this investment to strengthen and sustain the work of our nation's museums.

Sincerely,



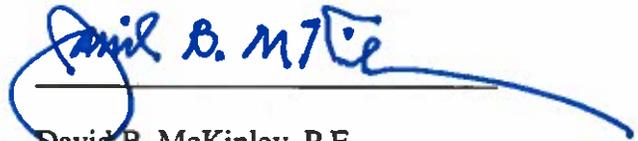
Paul Tonko



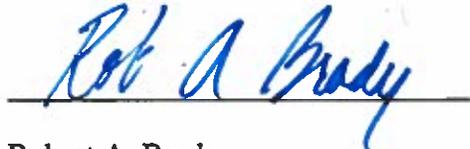
Leonard Lance



Louise M. Slaughter



David B. McKinley, P.E.



Robert A. Brady



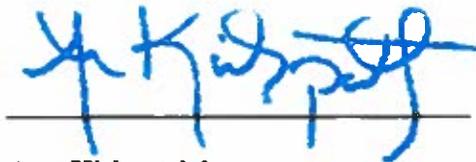
Debbie Dingell



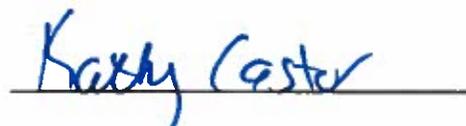
Bonnie Watson Coleman



Ann McLane Kuster



Ann Kirkpatrick



Kathy Castor



Frederica S. Wilson



Jackie Speier

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Alma Adams

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

David Scott

David Scott

Dennis Ross

Dennis Ross

Mike Doyle

Mike Doyle

Cedric Richmond

Cedric Richmond

Alan Grayson

Alan Grayson

Joseph P. Kennedy

Joseph P. Kennedy

Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan

William R. Keating

William R. Keating

John Lewis

John Lewis

Dina Titus

Dina Titus

John Yarmuth

John Yarmuth

Marc Veasey

Marc Veasey

Joyce Beatty

Joyce Beatty

Mark Takai

Mark Takai

Wihibi

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

Denny Heck

Denny Heck

Denny Heck

Filemon Vela

Filemon Vela

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

James P. McGovern

James P. McGovern

Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici

Eric Swalwell

Eric Swalwell

Elizabeth H. Esty

Elizabeth H. Esty

Stacey Plaskett

Stacey Plaskett

Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos

Julia Brownley

Julia Brownley

Theodore E. Deutch

Theodore E. Deutch

Tim Walz

Tim Walz

Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott

Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer

Chris Collins

Chris Collins



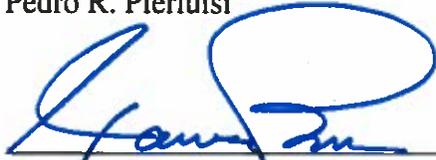
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott



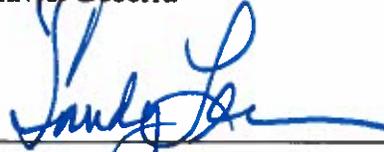
Renee Ellmers



Pedro R. Pierluisi



Xavier Becerra



Sander Levin



Chellie Pingree



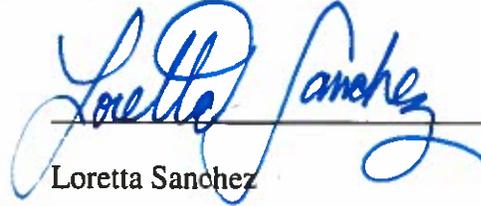
Seth Moulton



Michael E. Capuano



Jerry McNerney



Loretta Sanchez



Bill Foster



Jim Himes



Brenda Lawrence



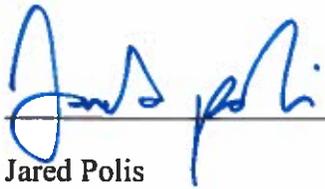
Zoe Lofgren



Ed Perlmutter



Matt Cartwright



Jared Polis



Ron Kind



Susan Brooks



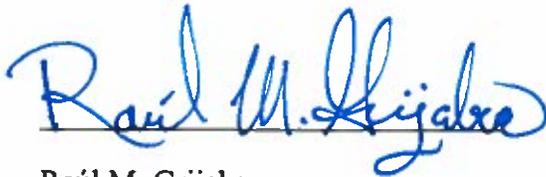
Mark Takano



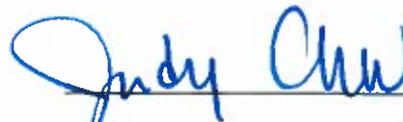
Tony Cárdenas



Kathleen M. Rice



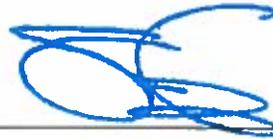
Raúl M. Grijalva



Judy Chu



Dave Loebsack



Sean Patrick Maloney



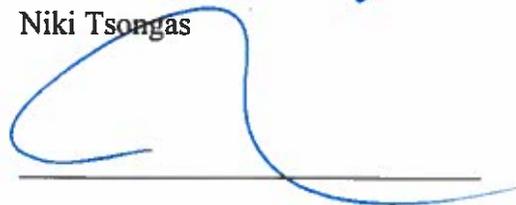
Kyrsten Sinema



Niki Tsongas



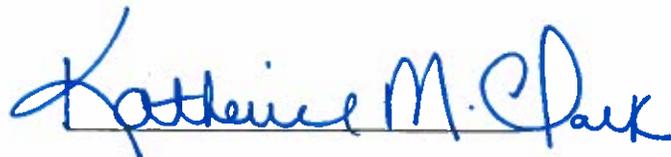
Tulsi Gabbard



John Delaney



Chris Van Hollen



Katherine Clark

Collin C. Peterson

Collin C. Peterson

Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler

Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis

Eleanor H. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel

Bobby Rush

Bobby Rush

Richard E. Neal

Richard E. Neal

Lois Capps

Lois Capps

Gregory W. Meeks

Gregory W. Meeks

Gerald E. Connolly

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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

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Keith Ellison

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David N. Cicilline

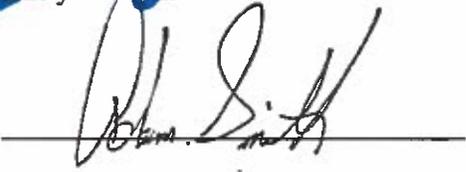
David N. Cicilline

Gwen Moore

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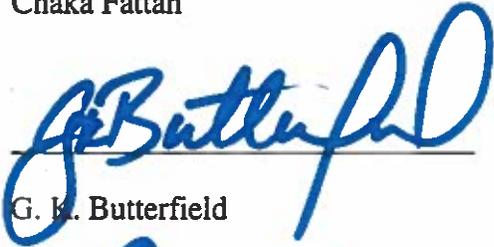
Betty McConium



Adam Smith



Chaka Fattah



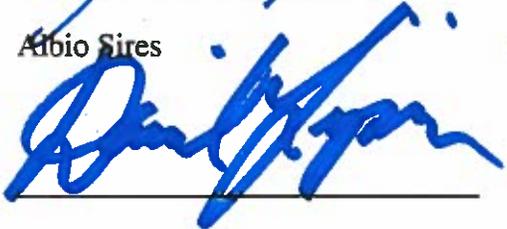
G. K. Butterfield



Don Young



Abio Sires



Daniel W. Lipinski



Joe Courtney



Rubén Hinojosa



Barbara Lee



Peter Welch



Carolyn B. Maloney



Tim Murphy



Marcia Fudge



Al Green



Yvette D. Clarke

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings

Charles B. Rangel

Charles B. Rangel

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette

Stephen F. Lynch

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Steve Cohen

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John Garamendi

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Mike Coffman

Mike Coffman

Donna F. Edwards

Donna F. Edwards

Ben Ray Luján

Ben Ray Luján

André Carson

André Carson

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins

Lloyd Doggett

Lloyd Doggett

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

Linda T. Sánchez

Linda T. Sánchez

Jim Langevin

Jim Langevin

Beto O'Rourke

Beto O'Rourke