

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston
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 Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We are writing to thank you for your previous support for the Office of Museum Services (OMS) at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and to urge the Subcommittee to support robust funding for OMS in the FY 2015 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 more than 17,500 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 the economic benefits of this funding, 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 resources are strained and many families are struggling to make ends meet, museums are working overtime to fill the gaps. Every year, museums provide more than 18 million instructional hours to 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 hosting supervised visits for the family court system, 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 re-authorization 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 FY15 to support the important work museums are doing in our communities. 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.

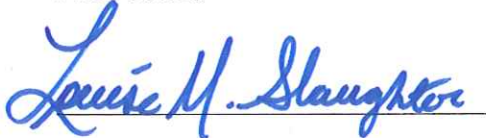
Sincerely,



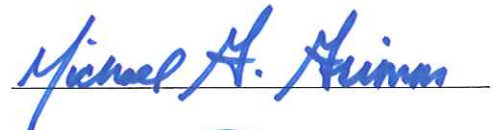
Paul Tonko



Leonard Lance



Louise M. Slaughter



Michael Grimm



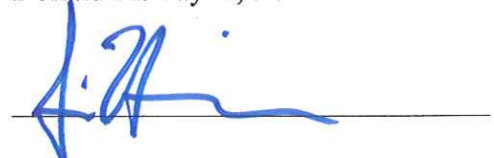
Robert Brady



Donald M. Payne, Jr.



James R. Langevin



Jim Himes



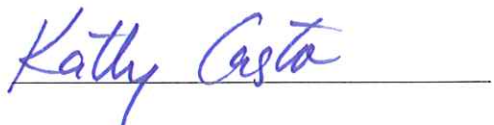
David N. Cicilline



Ann McLane Kuster



Lloyd Doggett



Kathy Castor

Frederica S. Wilson

Frederica Wilson

David Scott

David Scott

Mike Doyle

Mike Doyle

Mark Pocan

Mark Pocan

Brad Schneider

Brad Schneider

David B. McKinley, P.E.

David B. McKinley, P.E.

Gregorio Kili Sablan

Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan

Denny Heck

Denny Heck

James P. McGovern

James P. McGovern

Jackie Speier

Jackie Speier

Colleen Hanabusa

Colleen Hanabusa

Timothy Bishop

Timothy Bishop

William R. Keating

William R. Keating

John Yarmuth

John Yarmuth

Joyce Beatty

Joyce Beatty

Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly

Filemon Vela

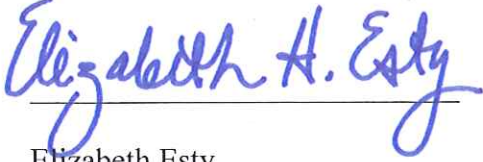
Filemon Vela

Suzanne Bonamici

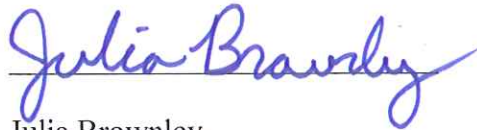
Suzanne Bonamici



Eric Swalwell



Elizabeth Esty



Julia Brownley



Tim Walz



Earl Blumenauer



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott



Pedro R. Pierluisi



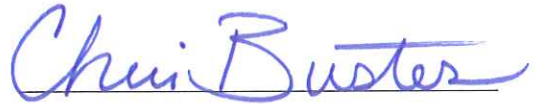
Bill Foster



Sander Levin



Tulsi Gabbard



Cheri Bustos



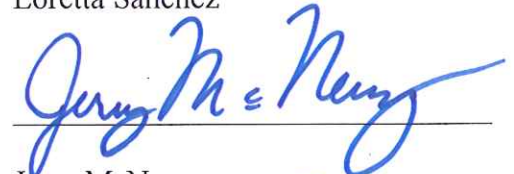
Theodore E. Deutch



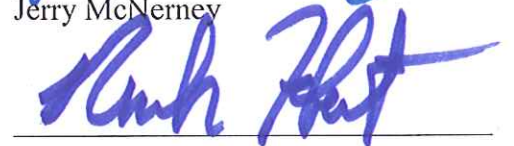
Jim McDermott



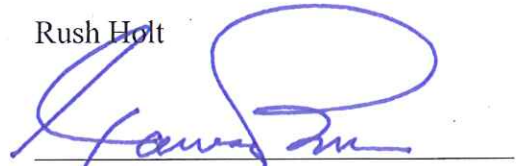
Loretta Sanchez



Jerry McNerney



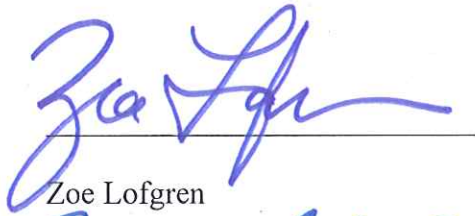
Rush Holt



Xavier Becerra



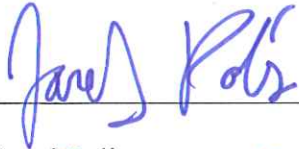
Chellie Pingree



Zoe Lofgren



Michael E. Capuano



Jared Polis



Donna M. Christensen



Judy Chu

Sean Patrick Maloney



Niki Tsongas



John Delaney



Betty McCollum



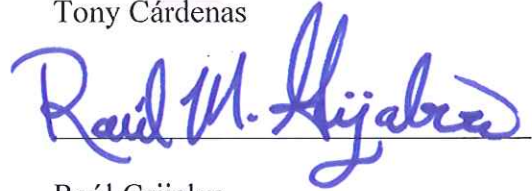
Ed Perlmutter



Matt Cartwright



Tony Cárdenas



Raúl Grijalva



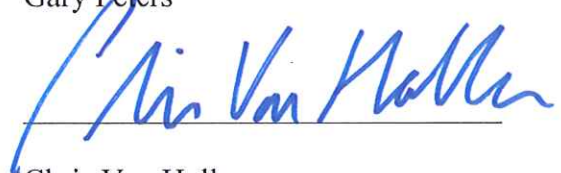
Dave Loebsack



Carol Shea-Porter



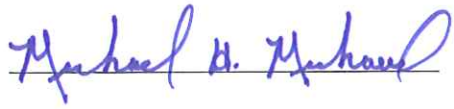
Gary Peters



Chris Van Hollen



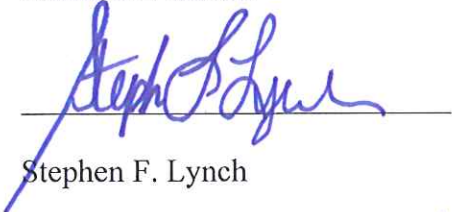
Daniel W. Lipinski



Mike Michaud



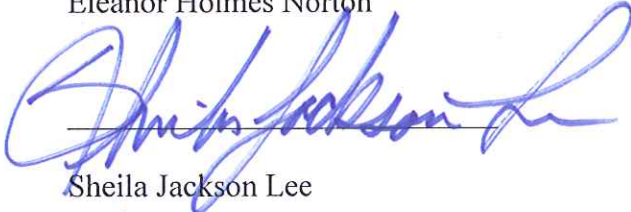
Collin C. Peterson



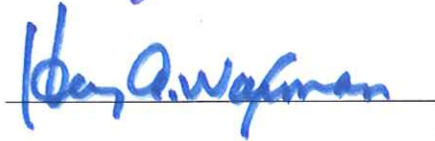
Stephen F. Lynch



Eleanor Holmes Norton



Sheila Jackson Lee



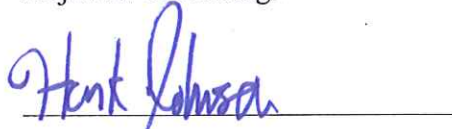
Henry A. Waxman



Lois Capps



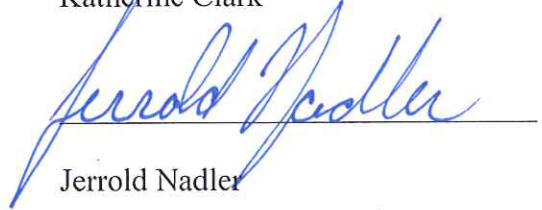
Elijah E. Cummings



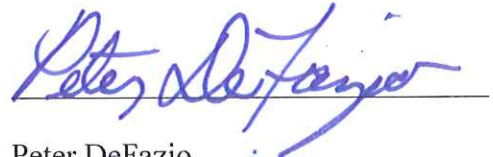
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.



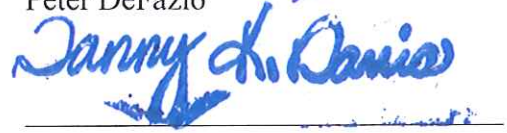
Katherine Clark



Jerrold Nadler



Peter DeFazio



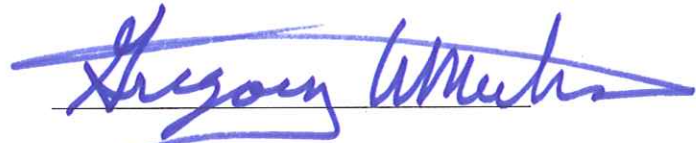
Danny K. Davis




Eliot L. Engel



Richard E. Neal



Gregory W. Meeks



John Tierney



Keith Ellison

Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore

Rubin Hinojosa

Rubén Hinojosa

Adam Smith

Adam Smith

Bobby L. Rush

Bobby Rush

Peter Welch

Peter Welch

Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn B. Maloney

Tim Murphy

Tim Murphy

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings

Jim Moran

James P. Moran

Bruce Braley

Bruce Braley

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee

Chaka Fattah

Chaka Fattah

G.K. Butterfield

G.K. Butterfield

John D. Dingell

John D. Dingell

Albio Sires

Albio Sires

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette Clarke

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen

C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger

C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger

Linda T. Sanchez

Linda T. Sanchez

Doris O. Matsui

Doris Matsui

John P. Sarbanes

John P. Sarbanes

Ben Ray Luján

Ben Ray Luján

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins

Charles B. Rangel

Charles B. Rangel

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Luis Gutiérrez

Luis Gutiérrez

William Lacy Clay

William Lacy Clay

John Conyers, Jr.

John Conyers, Jr.

Jim Gerlach

Jim Gerlach

Donna Edwards

Donna Edwards

André Carson

André Carson

Dina Titus

Dina Titus