ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

May 18, 2006

The Honorable Louise Slaughter  The Honorable Chris Shays
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman Dicks  The Honorable David Price
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515  Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Leach
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Slaughter, Shays, Dicks, Price, and Leach:

On behalf of the 60 leading U.S. public and private research institutions in the Association of American Universities (AAU), I would like to extend our sincerest thanks to you for your leadership in sponsoring the amendment to H.R. 5386 raising FY07 funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA). We greatly appreciate the bipartisan work of the Congressional Humanities Caucus and Arts Caucus to provide an additional $5 million for each of these important agencies.

It is our hope that the $5 million will help to restore some of the programmatic cuts to NEH proposed in the President’s FY07 budget. Despite bipartisan Congressional support for NEH, funding for the core divisions (research, education, preservation and access, public programs, federal and state partnerships, and challenge grants) has declined since FY02. The $5 million increase will help strengthen these core divisions, as well as the successful We the People program designed to encourage and strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture.

Thank you, once again, for your leadership in building support for NEH, the single most important source of federal support for humanities programs in the United States. As the appropriations process moves forward, we hope that you will be able to sustain these increases. Please let me know how we may be of assistance in that effort.

Sincerely,

John Vaughn
AAU Interim President