

STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION

HEARING

BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INFORMATION POLICY,
CENSUS, AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

JUNE 9, 2010

Serial No. 111-80

Printed for the use of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform



Available via the World Wide Web: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/congress/index.html>
<http://www.oversight.house.gov>

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

61-585 PDF

WASHINGTON : 2010

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
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STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INFORMATION POLICY, CENSUS, AND
NATIONAL ARCHIVES,
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:07 p.m., in room 2154, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Wm. Lacy Clay (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Clay, Norton, Driehaus, Westmoreland, and Chaffetz.

Also present: Representative Jordan.

Staff present: Darryl Piggee, staff director/counsel; Yvette Cravins, counsel; Frank Davis and Anthony Clark, professional staff members; Charisma Williams, staff assistant; John Cuaderes, minority deputy staff director; Rob Borden, minority general counsel; Jennifer Safavian, minority chief counsel for oversight and investigations; Adam Fromm, minority chief clerk and Member liaison; Kurt Bardella, minority press secretary; Seamus Kraft, minority deputy press secretary; Justin LoFranco, minority press assistant and clerk; Tom Alexander, minority senior counsel; and Ashley Callen and Jonathan Skladany, minority counsels.

Mr. CLAY. Good afternoon. The Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee will now come to order.

Without objection, the Chair and ranking minority member will have 5 minutes to make opening statements, followed by opening statements not to exceed 3 minutes by any other Member who seeks recognition.

Without objection, Members and witnesses may have 5 legislative days to submit a written statement or extraneous materials for the record.

Welcome to today's hearing entitled, "Strengthening the National Historical Publications and Records Commission." Because we have a long list of witnesses today who will talk about the specifics of the Commission, I will make my remarks brief and submit my full statement for the record.

It has been more than 20 years since the NHPRC's authorization was set at \$10 million. In the past there have been attempts to eliminate it by those who claim the Commission was wasteful or redundant. These efforts, I believe, reflected a fundamental mis-

understanding of what the NHPRC is and what it does. I am confident that this confusion is, like the records that the Commission's grants preserve are, now part of our past.

I introduced H.R. 1556 last year to authorize the NHPRC at \$20 million a year for the next 5 years. I hope the bill will enjoy the broad and bipartisan support in the House that it clearly does across the country, judging from the great interest shown in this hearing.

I wholeheartedly support the NHPRC. It is a vital, successful, and efficient program. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support increasing the authorized funding to a level commensurate with the Commission's goals and one that recognizes its importance in helping to preserve and make available our Nation's documentary heritage.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Wm. Lacy Clay follows:]

*Statement
Of
Chairman Wm. Lacy Clay, Chairman
Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee
Oversight and Government Reform Committee
Wednesday, June 9, 2010
2154 Rayburn HOB
2:00 p.m.*

“Strengthening the National Historical Publications and Records Commission”

Welcome to today’s hearing on strengthening the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, or NHPRC.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission is the nation’s oldest grant-making body for the preservation, publication and use of documentary sources relating to the history of the United States. This prestigious Commission was established in 1934, in the same legislation that created the National Archives, and began making grants to non-federal recipients in 1964. It is composed of representatives of the three branches of federal government, as well as professional associations of archivists, historians, documentary editors and records administrators.

In its most recent authorizing legislation, in 2004, Congress endorsed appropriations for the Commission not to exceed ten million dollars – an amount which has not been increased since 1988. In that time, there have been sweeping changes to archives, records and historical research. These include a significant increase in the creation and use of electronic records and severe cutbacks from state and local governments for preservation and access. In addition there has been an explosion in citizens’ requests for records that document their individual rights: evidence of birth, education, marriage, divorce, property owned, obligations satisfied, and criminal conduct, that are held at the state and local level.

Despite these major changes, the Commission’s authorization amount has not been raised. In fact, for most of the past decade, attempts were made to zero out funding for the Commission. These attempts failed, and Congressional supporters were able to restore funding. However, the fight to maintain the very existence of the Commission has obscured the real need to increase authorized funding to a level commensurate with its mission, history, and significance, as well as the new and ongoing requirements facing archives and historical research.

The need to increase funding and expand the programs of the Commission is clear. The Commission is able to make grants to less than half of those applicants who meet or exceed the requirements each year. Just over fifty percent of those who apply and who are judged qualified and worthy to receive grants are turned down by the Commission due to lack of funds. In addition to worthy grants being denied within existing programs, the major changes to archives and historical research – by professionals and by citizens – over the last few decades have increased the need for additional grant programs. The National

Historical Publications and Records Commission has a long history not only of helping institutions preserve and make records of historical value broadly available, but of adapting to changing needs. The Commission has evolved at times to expand its mandate when necessary. This is one of those times.

We will hear today from the Archivist of the United States, distinguished Members of Congress, historians, records managers and archivists about the critical preservation efforts that the Commission supports through its grants program. We will review the success of the grant programs over the last 45 years; examine the major changes to archives, records and historical research since the Commission's current authorized funding level was set, in 1988; and discuss expanding the funding and scope of its grants programs in order to bring the Commission in line with current and future needs.

One hundred years ago, in 1910, Congress held the first hearings on the creation of a permanent national historical publications commission. Seventy five years ago, in 1935, that Commission finally met for the first time. Sixty years ago, in 1950, the National Historical Publications Commission's membership was enlarged and for the first time was authorized to appoint an executive director and staff. Forty-six years ago, in 1964, the Commission awarded its first grants. Ten years later, in 1974 the Commission, now the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, or NHPRC, began funding state and local archival projects. Twenty years ago, the NHPRC was authorized at ten million dollars – the same level it received in its most recent authorization. In those twenty years, more has changed about archives, document creation and preservation, historical records and research than in the eighty years before. We have to do better. We must recognize the changes that have occurred, we must recognize the critical importance of records, and we must update and strengthen this important and valuable federal program.

It has been more than twenty years since the NHPRC's authorization was set at ten million dollars. In the past, there have been attempts to eliminate it by those who claimed the Commission was wasteful or redundant. These previous efforts, I believe, reflected a fundamental misunderstanding of what the NHPRC is and what it does. I am confident that this confusion is, like the records the Commission's grants preserve, part of our past.

I introduced HR 1556 last year to authorize the NHPRC at twenty million dollars a year for the next five years. Judging from the wide range of witnesses, the great interest shown by those here in attendance, and the letters and statements we have received in support of this bill, I hope it will enjoy the broad and bipartisan support here in the House that it clearly does across the country.

And speaking of letters of support for the Commission, I would like to quote from one of them, sent to the Administrator of General Services:

"Documents are the primary sources of history: they are the means by which later generations draw close to historical events and enter into the thoughts, fears, and hopes of the past...the Commission has done the most valuable work...this work...must not be allowed to falter...Compared with the funds required for other programs for the national

good, those requested by this Commission for this program are modest indeed...I wish you continued success in this great effort to enable the American people to repossess its historical heritage.” The letter is dated January 19, 1963, and is signed “John F. Kennedy, President of the United States.”

I wholeheartedly support the NHPRC. It is a vital, successful, and efficient program. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support increasing the authorized funding to a level commensurate with the Commission’s goals, and one that recognizes its importance in helping to preserve and make available our nation’s documentary heritage.

Mr. CLAY. I now yield to my colleague, Mr. Chaffetz, who is sitting in for the ranking member today. Mr. Chaffetz.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start by asking unanimous consent to first excuse Patrick McHenry. He had a good excuse of getting married over the weekend. We congratulate him on that and understand that he is not here. We are all so pleased that he actually got married.

Mr. CLAY. Without objection, we will give him a noted absence.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. We would also ask unanimous consent to allow Mr. Jordan, who does serve on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, to join us here on the dias.

Mr. CLAY. Without objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

Mr. Chairman, I need to bring up something that is troublesome to us just before I give my opening remarks here. The House rules require that the written statements of non-governmental witnesses and witnesses representing non-government entities shall include a curriculum vitae and disclosure of recent grants and contracts awarded to themselves and the entities they are representing.

Despite a request by the committee staff, only one disclosure has been provided to the members of the committee. Even that one disclosure, provided on behalf of the American Association of State and Local History by Ms. Franco, was incomplete as it did not include Ms. Franco's curriculum vitae.

Mr. Chairman, because the required Truth in Testimony disclosures have not been included in the written statements of Mr. Beschloss, Dr. Hahn, Ms. Jefferson, Dr. Berlin, Dr. Daniel, Dr. Gottlieb, and Ms. Holbrook Perdue, I move, pursuant to House Rule 11, clause 2(g)(4), that the written statements of these seven witnesses be excluded from the official committee record and the print of this hearing.

Mr. CLAY. Are you waiting for me to rule on that?

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Yes, please.

Mr. CLAY. We do have all of the information that you requested. If you would like, we could turn it over to you now.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Well, obviously, we would like it sooner rather than later. I guess if you did have it all, again, I have the greatest respect for you, I am a good friend. Why weren't we provided that information prior to the hearing?

Mr. CLAY. I really couldn't tell you. But I am just hearing about it now and it is kind of embarrassing. Hopefully, you will allow these witnesses to be here. If you don't think it is enough time, I understand.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Oh, clearly. The witnesses have come at great time and expense and what-not to be here, but the rules are there for a reason.

Mr. CLAY. Sure.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. It allows us to dive deeper into the information, ask probing and informative questions to make the most of this hearing at the taxpayers' dime. I appreciate your sincerity and sharing that with me, but we should have had these records before.

Mr. CLAY. And I agree.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. And this is an Archives meeting, for goodness sake.

Mr. CLAY. You should have had those records. I don't have a good explanation as to why you don't have them, and most of this has come to us today.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. If you could provide them. I mean, obviously, we want them as soon as possible. We want to proceed with the hearing. We have important information to review. But that simply shouldn't happen. I have noted it.

Mr. CLAY. And let me apologize for the delay. We will follow the rules and this won't happen again.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I appreciate the chairman. Thank you.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I do have a statement; I will proceed.

Mr. CLAY. Go ahead, proceed with the statement.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, our economy is reeling. Jobs are scarce and many Americans are frustrated that Washington isn't listening to loud calls for belt-tightening and fiscal restraint. And just like families that are forced to cut back on good things like music lessons or vacation, Congress is also expected to cut programs, however meritorious, that are not essential to the core mission of our Federal Government. The Federal Government.

And I need to emphasize that because, quite frankly, we can't be all things to all people. We are trying to be, but we are more than \$13 trillion in debt. We are paying more than \$660 million a day just in interest. That is just our interest payment. We are not meeting the basic needs of our Federal Government, and the question and the concern with the bill and some of the things that I have heard discussed before this is expanding a program that, quite frankly, doesn't necessarily meet that Federal nexus.

Congress, however, doesn't seem to have received this message, so the American people are taking matters in their own hands. We have a program, for instance, such as YouCut, where each week taxpayers can vote on one of five nonessential programs to cut from the Federal budget. Republicans then bring the top vote-getter to the floor for a vote on cutting it.

This week tens of thousands of Americans have voted through YouCut to strip funding from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission from the Federal budget. The American people believe that for whatever contributions the Commission has made to our society through these grants, at a time when our Government is bankrupt, America can live without it.

We are going to have to make difficult decisions about what we are going to spend and what we are not going to spend. I happen to agree with those tens of thousands of American people who have said the savings may be modest in comparison to a multi-trillion dollar budget and the program, while well-intended, something has to give.

Chairman Clay, in your December 16, 2009, opening statement reminded us that "managing, preserving, and providing prompt and proper access to Federal records has been and must continue to be the primary mission of the National Archives." I totally and wholeheartedly agree. The mission and the goals that the Archives provides is critical to our Nation's future. There are things that, if we don't save them now, they won't be saved in the future. And I concur with that.

President Obama recently instructed agencies to cut programs “least critical” to their central mission. As the central mission of the National Archives is to preserve records of the National Government, and while the Commission is focused on State and local preservation, it most definitely qualifies this Commission as least critical and funding should be cut.

Yesterday, OMB Director Orszag echoed the President’s message calling for “duplicative” programs to be cut. The Commission does the same thing that the much larger and well-funded National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute for Museum and Library Services do. I agree with Director Orszag that duplicative programs like the Commission can and should be stripped from the budget. These are difficult decisions. I wish we could just have the luxury of being able to do this, but we simply don’t.

The American people have the right to a government that saves more than it spends. The first question we must ask ourselves as stewards of the taxpayers’ hard-earned money is: What can America live without? Not what more can we spend other people’s money on. That is what YouCut is all about.

We certainly won’t solve America’s fiscal problems by simply cutting the Commission. I understand that. We have to start somewhere, and the American people have spoken; they want us to start here.

I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you.

Just for the record, I would really love to hear what you think about the impact that the NHPRC has had in Utah. I am looking at the total funds spent and for what purposes, establishing a network of archives in Utah, public record support documenting the history of the people of the Great Basin in Utah; State archive support, support going to the University of Utah; Utah Historical Advisory Board; and so on.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Cut it. Cut it. Cut it. I got elected——

Mr. CLAY. Doesn’t this have an impact for the people of your State?

Mr. CHAFFETZ. If I could have some time, with all due respect, we have to make tough decisions. I will be the first to say, yes, even if it affects Utah, cut it. We can’t do it. We can’t be all things to all people.

Mr. CLAY. OK. All right, thank you for that.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Sure.

Mr. CLAY. Any other Members? Representative Driehaus, you are recognized.

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hadn’t prepared a statement, but I feel inclined to offer one now.

Coming from Cincinnati, OH, where history is tremendously important to us, to our culture, to our institutions, I couldn’t disagree with the gentleman from Utah more. The relatively minor investment that is made in preserving our history and preserving our culture is critical, critical to the American psyche and critical to so many communities across the country.

If we are looking for ways to address spending, if we are looking for ways to address the deficit, the gentleman will have an opportunity to vote, hopefully later this month, on a conference report

dealing with Wall Street reform that would have prevented, had it been passed earlier, the greatest recession we have seen in our lifetimes, which has been the single greatest contributor to the deficit. He voted against it once and he has an opportunity to vote for it for the future, so I hope he takes advantage of that opportunity.

Likewise, I don't know that the gentleman spoke out against two wars that were unfunded by the preceding administration.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Oh, yes I did.

Mr. DRIEHAUS. I hope he would have done that. Likewise, we had a tax cut under the Bush administration that led to the greatest deficit that we have seen in our lifetimes because we were set on a path that was going straight down when we walked in the door.

But this isn't about that. This is about preserving our history because it is so critically important to the culture of communities across the United States. We do have a responsibility to preserve that culture. We do have a responsibility to speak to our history so that we don't make the mistakes in the future of repeating past mistakes.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would strongly disagree with my colleague from Utah. I believe the NHPRC is critically important. I support its funding and I am pleased that you are having the hearing today, and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Would the gentleman yield? You can always reclaim your time if you don't like the direction I am going.

Mr. CLAY. The gentleman did not yield.

Does any other Member prefer to make an opening statement?

Mr. JORDAN. [Remarks made off mic.]

Mr. CLAY. Yes. You have 3 minutes.

Mr. JORDAN. Three minutes?

Mr. CLAY. Yes, sir.

Mr. JORDAN. I would yield the balance of my time to the ranking member.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Thank you.

To clarify, answer the gentleman's question, I campaigned on the very idea the Republicans had the House, the Senate, the Presidency, and they blew it. I did look back in retrospect and said, yeah, what we did in Iraq was wrong, and I questioned the president in the move in Afghanistan. So to help clarify the record, yeah, I have been very critical, even when it says the word "Bush." I think I have been even in my principles.

Let me also clarify here that the National Archives and Records Administration proposed budget for fiscal year 2010 is roughly \$467 million, the National Endowments for the Humanities is roughly \$167 million, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services is roughly \$240 million, for a total of roughly \$874 million. Now, somehow we are going to have to survive on that kind of money. What is being proposed is to increase that even more.

At the same time, you have President Obama, you have the OMB Director calling for a 5 percent cut, a 5 percent across-the-board cut. Let me read this real quickly. This is from Director Orszag, June 8th: "The bottom line is we do not have the luxury of simply spending more. We must continually review all spending and make sure every dollar addresses a clear need or problem. We can no longer afford the old way of doing business here in Washington,

DC. As described below, the President is asking for a renewed effort to go through your budget line by line, with a critical eye to target programs that are not the best use of taxpayer dollars.”

We still have hundreds of millions of dollars allocated to preserving the needed records.

One last thing, Mr. Chairman, and I will conclude. On page 2 of Director Orszag’s 5 percent target: “Your agency should identify discretionary programs or sub-programs that constitute at least 5 percent of your agency’s fiscal year 2000 discretionary appropriations as enacted.”

But what we are talking about here is a doubling. So I think, ironically enough, I am being consistent with the President and the OMB Director, and I think the gentleman from Ohio and others should answer as to why they think, in this economic peril that we are in, why they can justify doubling a budget. Doubling.

I yield back.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Chaffetz, the order was to look at programs in agencies that were duplicitous and that were wasteful, and I am sure that those agencies will be able to find some cuts.

Let’s move toward the testimony of the witnesses.

I would now like to introduce our first panel, and the first witness will be the Honorable John Larson, Member of Congress from the great State of Connecticut. Congressman Larson has honorably served the people of the First District of Connecticut since 1999 and is the Chair of the Democratic Caucus. Congressman Larson has been an active and enthusiastic member of the NHPRC since 2007.

Our next witness is Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero. Mr. Ferriero has led the National Archives since his confirmation last November. Mr. Ferriero previously served as the Andrew W. Mellon director of the New York Public Library, the largest public library system in the United States.

We will then hear from Ms. Kathleen Williams, who has been executive director of the NHPRC since 2008, after serving as deputy director for 4 years. She previously spent over 20 years as an archivist.

I thank all of our witnesses for appearing today and look forward to their testimony. I notice this is your first visit, Ms. Williams. We are not as ferocious as we may seem. [Laughter.]

It is the policy of the committee to swear in all witnesses before they testify. Would you please stand and raise your right hands? [Witnesses sworn.]

Mr. CLAY. Thank you. You may be seated.

Let the record reflect that the witnesses answered in the affirmative, and we will try to get through each witness’s testimony before we recess.

Mr. Larson, you may proceed.

**STATEMENTS OF HON. JOHN B. LARSON, A REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, MEMBER
OF NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS
COMMISSION; DAVID S. FERRIERO, ARCHIVIST OF THE
UNITED STATES, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLI-
CATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION; AND KATHLEEN M.
WILLIAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION, U.S. NATIONAL
ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION**

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN B. LARSON

Mr. LARSON. Well, thank you, Chairman Clay. I really appreciate the opportunity to testify before you and ranking member for the day Mr. Chaffetz, my distinguished colleague, Mr. Driehaus from Ohio, Mr. Jordan as well. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to come and address the committee today on what I believe is an extraordinarily important issue for the country, for the Nation, and one that I want to commend, from the outset, Chairman Clay.

Chairman Clay has recognized the traditional under-funding that has taken place in such a vital aspect of our Nation's history and its culture.

I am a strong supporter, in fact, the cosponsor of H.R. 1556, because I don't believe the decisions that confront us, as have been enumerated both by Mr. Driehaus and by Mr. Chaffetz, while they are important in terms of how we look at what we are assigned to do in the U.S. Congress, it is not a question of whether it is big government or smaller government; it is a question of how efficient the government is that we provide for the people. So as your responsibility, and ours all collectively, is to examine the budgets in our committees and to make sure that what we are producing carries with it the most beneficial and effective use of money that we can find.

If I can, Mr. Chairman, I will seek permission to revise and extend my remarks, submit extraneous information, and summarize, if I will, because I think it is best to summarize this around an age-old debate, and one best articulated by Daniel Boorstin, who was the Librarian of Congress.

Boorstin was very concerned about the, well, at the time he called it the Year of the Book, and what was happening in terms of literacy, what was happening in terms of the confluence of technology and literacy, and what was happening, in fact—and I think every Member of Congress and, I dare say, everyone in the audience can appreciate this—the differentiation between information and knowledge.

It used to be commonplace that we would say we want it to be an informed citizenry. And yet it is hard, I think, for anyone to turn on the TV screen today and not see messages screaming across the bottom of a screen while you are getting direct news, while you are getting the forecast, while there is another sub-column over here, 24/7 cable. Clearly, Americans are informed. But are they more knowledgeable?

So when we look at our great institutions, including the National Archives, the Library of Congress, these institutions become, for a

democracy and a culture, a fortress of knowledge, differentiating between the information. And especially in this day and age when everything is instant, now, and everywhere, they become the storehouse of knowledge that allows the American citizen to peruse not only present and future, but everywhere in the past at their leisure.

And that is why these primary documents, whether they be the documents and the comments and the opening comments of today's committee hearing, whether they be floor statements, whether they be historic in nature by virtue of the plethora of great Americans that have made contributions to this Nation, they do indeed become vitally important.

Mr. Driehaus accounted for, in his statements, the need especially for our States and our municipalities and the need for us, if we are to be that beacon of light around the world, to lead intelligently and effectively with who we are as a people.

It is one thing to talk about democracy, freedom, and liberty. It is another thing, for all cultures, but most importantly our culture, our people, our citizens, to have the kind of exposure that they need to the great gift of knowledge, historic preservation, and records that aren't just instant, now, and everywhere, but are the culmination of a Nation's history, of a people, of humanity in general.

And I would submit that is the great strength of our country, our national archive system, our library, which is second to none in the world. If we are to bring about the kind of change that we would all like to see around the world, there can be no more effective use of money spent by this Congress than in making sure that great and ennobling message is able to reach beyond our borders, but, most importantly, within our borders, to educate our children and future generations, to develop our scholars, to put, in fact, our scholars at work.

The National Archives were born out of the effort of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in a time far more difficult than what we face today. But they saw the necessity in investing in the Nation's history and making sure that we not only preserved it, but also used this, going forward, as a beacon of hope not only for our country, but, as we have seen, has served this Nation extraordinarily well.

I want to commend you, Mr. Clay. I wholeheartedly support your legislation. I thank the committee for an opportunity to speak here this afternoon. I apologize that, as the chairman knows, we have a caucus that is going and, I guess, concurrent with votes that will be taking place on the floor as well, and I thank all of my colleagues for the opportunity to speak before you today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Larson follows:]

**Testimony of
The Honorable John B. Larson
Member, U.S. House of Representatives**

**Before the Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee
of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee**

**“Strengthening the National Historical Publications and Records
Commission.”**

**Wednesday, June 09, 2010
2154 Rayburn HOB
2:00 p.m.**

Thank you, Chairman Clay for holding this critical hearing and for inviting me to speak on behalf of the Commission.

As a member of the Commission since 2008, I have seen firsthand the incredible work the National Archives and National Historical Publications and Records Commission have done to document this nation’s democracy.

From preserving the papers of our founding fathers, to those of great American pioneers like Isabella Beecher Hooker and global visionaries like John F. Kennedy, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission has provided invaluable grants to preserve and document our past. And it is only by preserving this heritage and promoting its accessibility, can future generations increase their understanding of our history and culture.

As a former history teacher, I can’t stress enough the important role that understanding the past plays in shaping the successful future of this country, which relies on an educated and engaged populous.

The mission of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission promotes exactly that. There is no shortage of examples of projects that grants from the Commission have funded.

In fact, the demand across the country for grants is much higher than that of the Commission's budget, which as you know is only authorized at \$10 million and has rarely been appropriated at that level.

If the Commission could have funded every eligible and qualified project in 2009, over \$22 million would have been awarded.

Since the first grants were awarded in 1964 until now, a total of a \$200 million dollars have been awarded.

This is quite a contrast to the annual budget of National Endowment of the Humanities which was appropriated \$167 million last year.

I'm not in favor of cutting NEH's budget, instead I highlight it only as an example of demonstrated federal interest in supporting non-federal efforts to preserve and make available our documentary heritage.

Increasing the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's budget even a small amount would reap huge benefits.

I am a cosponsor of Chairman Clay's legislation to increase the appropriation level of the Commission to \$20 million. Funding levels for the Commission have remained flat since 1988, yet since there has been a significant increase in the creation and use of electronic records and severe cutbacks from state and local governments for preservation and access.

At the same time, more and more people have made requests for records like evidence of birth, education, marriage, divorce, and property owned, which are held at the state and local level.

While the National Historical Publications and Records Commission most prominent work is in preserving documents of famous historical figures, it also provides grants to states that document individual records.

Instead of fighting attempts to zero out funding for the Commission, we should be supporting the full funding of the Commission, 90% of which creates or saves jobs.

The Commission acts as source of seed funding to states and local municipalities across the country, helping them leverage funding from private sources and develop plans for preservation and archival services.

We must reauthorize this important program and fund it appropriately. Our futures depend on it.

Thank you again for inviting me to testify. I look forward to working with the Committee to ensure passage of the Chairman's bill to reauthorize the Commission.

Mr. CLAY. I thank the witness for his appearance, and you are dismissed. Thank you.

Mr. Ferriero, you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF DAVID S. FERRIERO

Mr. FERRIERO. Chairman Clay and members of the subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to participate in this hearing on the National Historic Publications and Records Commission, which is especially timely since today is International Archives Day. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for introducing the reauthorization bill, and I would also like to thank Congressman Larson for being here today and for ably representing the House as a voting member on NHPRC.

Although the National Archives is a steward of Federal records, the National Historic Publications and Records Commission augments that work by awarding competitive matching grants that help preserve and make accessible a much wider variety of important historical records that tell our American story.

As Archivist of the United States, I serve as chair of the Commission. It is a responsibility that I am honored to have, and I say this as one who, for the past three decades in the library profession, has witnessed firsthand the power of these modest grants to encourage and leverage a wide variety of archival projects.

The Commission's membership is drawn from executive, judicial, and legislative branches of the Federal Government and from professional associations of historians, editors, and archivists. It rigors the reviews and competitively selects projects each year that preserve historical documents and make them available to all Americans. The most difficult part of this process is that we must cast aside more excellent grant applications than we are able to fund. In my written testimony, I have provided a few examples of grants that work, and I can provide many hundreds of examples from every State in the country.

Of course, each and every NHPRC grant is important to the people, institutions, and communities on the receiving end; however, the ultimate grant beneficiaries are future generations of Americans who will continue to learn from the history we are helping to discover, preserve, and make accessible.

NHPRC grants, however, can also make records available in ways that have a dramatic impact on the lives of ordinary citizens today. A grant from NHPRC to Texas Tech established the Vietnam Archives Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association Collection, which helps Vietnamese refugees immigrate to the United States. In June 2009, a former Vietnamese reeducation camp prisoner was able to obtain political asylum in the United States by using the documents found in this collection to prove his case.

Another area where NHPRC support is making a difference is helping States and localities expand access to digitized records on the Web. Virtually every archives, museum, and library is struggling to meet these challenges of so many records, so much public demand, and so few resources to make them easily accessible. And electronic records, those created as digital files, increase the scale, cost, and complexity of the problem. It is a challenge we are acute-

ly aware of with Federal records at the National Archives and it is a challenge we share with every State, city, county, and town across the Nation.

I will be the first to admit that we do not have all the answers here in Washington. Through the NHPRC, however, we are able to fund innovative projects that contribute to a shared base of knowledge on best practices for creating, preserving, and providing access to electronic records. All of us in the Federal Government are very aware of the constrained budget environment. I would only add that the equally difficult budget situations in most States are having a troubling impact on State and local archival programs. I would argue that the preservation of historical records across the Nation is as important in tough economic times as it is in prosperous times, and support from NHPRC is particularly crucial in leveraging resources from State and the private sector, since NHPRC award amounts are usually matched one to one, and also in originating and sustaining jobs for archivists and researchers.

Through its grants program, the NHPRC fulfills Congress's vision for national leadership to preserve and make accessible our Nation's rich documentary heritage. School children use these documents in their study of history; citizens use these documents to discover their own heritage and to affirm their basic rights; and storytellers use these documents to write new chapters in the American story. From the award-winning historical biography of John Adams to the PBS series on the Civil War and America's national parks, all are made possible through our support of the original documents in our Nation's archives.

I know there are several individuals and organizations testifying today in support of your legislation. With my testimony, I also am including several letters from organizations that are not present here today but wanted their support to be included in this hearing record.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you, and I look forward to answering your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Ferriero follows:]

TESTIMONY OF DAVID S. FERRIERO
ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION POLICY, CENSUS AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES
OF THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
ON
“STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND
RECORDS COMMISSION”
JUNE 9, 2010

Chairman Clay and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to participate in this hearing on the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). I would also like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for introducing the National Historical Publications and Records Commission reauthorization bill. While the National Archives is the steward for Federal records, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) augments that work by awarding competitive, matching grants that help preserve and make accessible a much wider variety of important historical records that tell our American story. Together the National Archives and the Commission make an investment in the health of the nation's records vital to our common understanding of our rights, history, and culture. Your bill will ensure the authorization of this program through 2014.

As this Subcommittee knows, the Commission was created in 1934 in the same bill that established the National Archives, and it shows the prescience of the Congress at that time to

bind the Commission and the Archives together. For the Commission provides the National Archives with a unique way to reach out to the nation's archives—in communities in every state, with governments at all levels, and with historical societies, colleges and universities, and other organizations. We are not alone here in Washington. We are a part of a network of archivists, records managers, historians, and others dedicated to preserving the primary sources of our nation's history.

As Archivist of the United States, I serve as the chair of the Commission. It is a responsibility that I am honored to have and one that I take very seriously. I say this as one who, for the past three decades in the library profession, has witnessed firsthand the power of these modest grants to encourage and leverage archival projects that become lasting foundations for a deeper understanding of our shared American experience. The Commission's membership is drawn from the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of the Federal government and from professional associations of historians, editors, and archivists. It rigorously reviews and competitively selects projects each year that preserve historical documents and make them available to all Americans. I would like to offer a few examples of some recent NHPRC grants:

Prior to receiving a grant from the NHPRC, the city of Seattle had no municipal archives. NHPRC support established an archive that now includes over 6,000 cubic feet of textual records; 3,000 maps and drawings, 3,000 audiotapes; hundreds of hours of motion picture film; and over 1.5 million photographic images. Among the archives are records documenting the anti-Chinese riots of the 1880s, the gold rush pioneers of 1897, the labor movement, two World's Fairs (1909 and 1962), and urban renewal projects such as the Pike Place Market, the largest public market in the country. A 2009 NHPRC grant will help the Seattle Municipal Archives

process an additional 1,858 linear feet of hidden collections that require basic attention to make them known and available for use. Raymond Mohl, author of several books on urban history, says, "The Seattle Municipal Archives is among the best such facilities in the United States."

In Maine, over 150 organizations from the Bangor Museum and Center for History to the York County Registry of Probate have been able to preserve local records that might otherwise be lost. For example, NHPRC funding made possible the description and preservation of 20,000 ships plans originating from the Bath Iron Works, Maine's first steel shipyard, dating back to the 19th century.

In South Carolina, NHPRC has provided nearly \$1.5 million to historical records projects. Combined with more than \$2.5 million in South Carolina cost sharing, including in-kind and cash matching funds, a total investment of approximately \$4 million has been made to ensure a future for South Carolina's past. Some of these funds helped to re-house the manuscript collections at the Charleston Library, helping to preserve nationally significant collections including letters from George Washington, Nathaniel Green, and Alexander Hamilton, the original manuscript of Porgy--which later became the American musical "Porgy and Bess," and the log of the Confederate raider ship *CSS Shenandoah*.

The grants described above were not awarded just because of the importance of the funding to people in Seattle, Maine or South Carolina. They were made to preserve, make accessible and enrich our nation's historical record. More importantly, however, they were made with an understanding that the ultimate grant beneficiaries are future generations of Americans who will continue to learn from history's lessons.

NHPRC grants, however, can also make records accessible in ways that have a dramatic impact on the lives of ordinary citizens today. The Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association (FVPPA) was founded in 1977 to assist citizens of Vietnam in applying through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Orderly Departure Program to immigrate to the United States. A grant from the NHPRC to Texas Tech established the Vietnam Archive's Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoner's Association (FVPPA) Collection which continues to help Vietnamese refugees immigrate to the U.S. In June 2009, a former Vietnamese reeducation camp prisoner was able to obtain political asylum in the U.S. by using the documents found in the FVPPA Collection to prove his case.

Another area where NHPRC support is making a difference is in helping states and localities expand access to digitized records on the Web. Virtually every museum and library and archives is struggling to meet the challenges of so many records, so much public demand, and so few resources to make them easily accessible. And electronic records—those created as digital files—increase the scale, cost, and complexity of the problem. It is a challenge we are acutely aware of with federal records at the National Archives, and it is a challenge we share with every state, city, county and town across the nation. I will be the first to admit that we do not have all of the answers here in Washington, DC. Through the NHPRC, however, we are able to fund innovative projects that contribute to a shared base of knowledge on best practices for creating, preserving and providing access to electronic records.

All of us in the federal government are very aware of the constrained budget environment. I would only add that the equally difficult budget situations in most states are having a very troubling impact on state and local archival programs. I would argue that the preservation of our

historical records across the nation is as important in tough economic times as it is in prosperous times. At times like this, support from the NHRPC is particularly crucial in leveraging resources from states and the private sector—since NHRPC award amounts are usually matched one-to-one—and also in originating and sustaining jobs for archivists and researchers.

Over its entire history, the NHRPC has stretched the dollars appropriated by Congress to meet a broad array of programming. It supports essential archival projects with an emphasis on revealing hidden collections; publishing historical records in print editions and online; educating archivists and documentary editors; furthering electronic records research and development; and supporting the national network of state archives.

Through its grants program, the NHRPC fulfills Congress's vision for national leadership to preserve and make accessible our nation's rich documentary heritage. Schoolchildren use these documents in their study of history; citizens use these documents to discover their own heritage and to affirm their basic rights; and storytellers use these documents to write new chapters in the American story—from the award-winning historical biography of John Adams to the PBS series on the Civil War and America's National Parks—all are made possible through our support of the original documents in our nation's archives.

I support the reauthorization of the Commission and look forward to vigorously carrying forth its mission.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear today and I look forward to answering your questions.



June 3, 2010

Chairman William Lacy Clay
 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
 Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives
 US House of Representatives
 B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Clay:

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) performs a critical role in preserving and making available the historical record of our republic. During my more than three decades as a professional historian and as an historical agency administrator, I have seen countless examples of the public impact of the NHPRC in making the most important documents of our nation's history more widely available. The commission's grant program has provided essential funding for projects that make the words of George Washington, Susan B. Anthony, Martin Luther King, James Madison, and many other historical figures come alive. Without NHPRC support, millions of pages of archival materials in communities all across America would be deteriorating or lost. The works supported by NHPRC are used both by experienced, prize-winning scholars as well as by middle-school and high-school students seeking to understand their nation's history.

Commission grants have leveraged millions of dollars in private investment and its programs are among the most cost-effective in the federal government. That's why I applaud the proposal to reauthorize the NHPRC at the \$20 million level for the next five years. I urge the subcommittee to support reauthorization of the NHPRC.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Stevens, Ph.D.
 State Historic Preservation Officer and Administrator
 Historic Preservation-Public History Division
 Phone: 608/264-6464

Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846
 816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

wisconsinhistory.org

Craig L. Symonds
102 Hillsmere Court, Annapolis, MD 21403

June 4, 2010

Chairman William L. Clay
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and the National Archives
B-394C Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Clay,

I write this letter in support of reauthorization for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) and expanding it to include a pass-through program for states. I recognize that our country remains in difficult financial straits, and that some cuts will no doubt need to be made in the budget. I hope, however, that you will consider, first, that NHPRC performs a vital function in finding, organizing and making available to the public and to researchers the records of our country's history, and second, that the funding needed to maintain this important work is rather modest. As an historian, I am convinced that the need to maintain robust support for the records of our past is central to remembering who we are as a people and a society. Throughout my teaching and publishing career at the U.S. Naval Academy, I have regularly relied on collections that were the product of NHPRC grants. I hope your committee can see fit to continue the support the work of this important organization.

Sincerely,

s/Craig L. Symonds

Craig L. Symonds
Professor Emeritus
U.S. Naval Academy



June 4, 2010

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay
Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and the National Archives
US House of Representatives
2418 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Clay,

This message is to urge approval of the five-year National Historical Publications and Records Commission reauthorization bill that would have a ceiling of \$20 million or grants for all five years. Over the past forty-four years, the NHPRC has awarded funding to thousands of state and local projects to preserve and publish important historical records that document America's heritage.

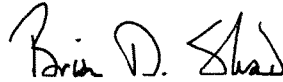
NHPRC grants provide seed money that is multiplied by cost-sharing grants awarded from private agencies. With the help of NHPRC grants, The Papers of George Catlett Marshall documentary editions have received funding from private organizations that matched NHPRC grants: such as the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft of Essen, Germany.

Documentary editions provide the primary documents for researchers and students of all ages. Without the NHPRC, The Papers of George Catlett Marshall project would not exist. The

Marshall Papers editions are used by nationally known biographers (such as David McCullough's Truman) and documentary film producers, as well as National History Day students, educators at all levels, and museum designers.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission promotes the preservation and use of America's documentary heritage essential to understanding our democracy, history, and culture. The NHPRC is a public trust for documenting democracy and its grants are a solid investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian D. Shaw". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Brian D. Shaw
President

Cc: Virgil Goode
Bob Goodlatte
James P. Moran

THE ULYSSES S. GRANT ASSOCIATION

John F. Marszalek
Executive Director and Managing Editor
Mitchell Memorial Library
Mississippi State University
P.O. Box 5408
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Phone: (662) 325-4552 Fax: (662) 325-0272
URL: <http://library.msstate.edu/usgrantassociation>
e-mail: johnmarsz@yahoo.com

June 4, 2010

William Lacy Clay
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Policy, Census,
and the National Archives
c/o Anthony Clark
Professional Staff Member

Dear Representative Clay,

Please accept this letter as our strong support for the NHPRC reauthorization bill that you have introduced.

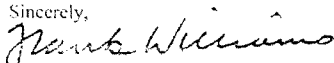
The Ulysses S. Grant Association was founded in 1962 by the Civil War Centennial Commissions of Illinois, New York, and Ohio to publish the writings of Civil War General and later President of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant. The Association has published 31 volumes of this Grant material and is presently working on a supplementary volume and a new edition of that classic of American literature: *Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant*. We have also digitized all these volumes and made them available for free on our website: <http://library.msstate.edu/usgrant>

This publication has had a major impact on providing essential and accurate information on an important American and the pivotal era in which he lived, thus enriching our knowledge of American history. The fact that, since 2008, this work is being carried on at Mississippi State University in the heart of the Old Confederacy says a great deal about its significance.

It has been the NHPRC which has provided essential financial support, without which this project could never have existed. The idea that this nation would no longer support projects like ours and so many others throughout the country seems incomprehensible. What a tragic loss to future Americans and to our ability to ensure the knowledge to preserve our freedoms for future generations.

Thank you for your support of this important historical work. Our nation is the better for it. It must be continued for our common welfare.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Williams
President



John F. Marszalek
Executive Director

Directors

John F. Marszalek, *Executive Director and Managing Editor*

Frank J. Williams, *President*
Sheldon S. Cohen, *Vice President*
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June 4, 2010

The Honorable William Lacy Clay
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives
U.S. House of Representatives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Clay:

I am writing in support of continued, and enhanced, funding of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission grants program.

There's no need to tell you about the importance of preserving and making accessible the documents of our founders, presidents, and other great men and women. What I would instead like to stress is the extraordinary economy of this program.

First, the NHPRC pays 0% in indirect costs, unlike other Federal agencies that pay these costs at negotiated rates sometimes in excess of 60%. When NIH gives a grant of \$100,000, it may cost the taxpayers \$160,000. When the NHPRC gives a grant of \$100,000, it costs \$100,000.

Second, the NHPRC requires a match of 50%. NSF, NIH, and other agencies may require as little as 2%. So, when a project gets a grant of \$100,000 from the NHPRC it must raise \$50,000 from other sources.

Third, typically NHPRC funds are a small but necessary part of a project's budget--necessary because they indicate to private donors, foundations, and other agencies that the project is worthwhile, well run, and productive. Thus, the Adams Papers, where I have worked part-time since retiring, gets only 20% of its funding from the NHPRC but would be unlikely to raise the other 80% without NHPRC support.

The NHPRC is a small agency that gives the taxpayers a lot of bang for the buck. I very much hope you and your committee will take the time to understand its importance and value.

Sincerely,
Beth Luey
Director Emerita
Scholarly Publishing Program
Arizona State University



June 5, 2010

Chairman William Lacy Clay
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and the National Archives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Subcommittee Hearing on Reauthorization of NHPRC

Dear Chairman Clay,

This letter is to express the support of FamilySearch International, also known as the Genealogical Society of Utah, for federal funding to archives through the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Our experience is that NHPRC has accomplished many significant things, including:

- NHPRC provides grant funding that is essential to ensuring the preservation of the American historical record through supporting documentary editions of the papers of important persons in our history ranging from the Founding Fathers to Martin Luther King, Jr., and for projects to ensure the preservation of archival records that provide the foundation for historical research in this country
- The federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars to support history programs in general, but NHPRC receives only a small amount--\$10 million-- to support records programs that in turn support historical research. We have seen the positive impact that NHPRC grants have made in thousands of organizations and communities, both large and small, throughout our country. The current authorized level of NHPRC funding is woefully inadequate, so in addition to being reauthorized, NHPRC should be appropriated at a significantly higher level.
- In addition to more funding, NHPRC should be expanded to include a pass-through grant program with resources directed to states and localities to ensure that documents and archival records in many forms can be readily used for a host of purposes by the people of this nation.
- Much of the American record—evidence of births, education, marriage (and divorce), property held, obligations satisfied and criminal conduct, evidence of the lives of individuals, families, groups and businesses—is held at the state and local level. Our

state and local governments and history organizations preserve the records that protect our rights and document our democratic society. This evidence is essential to documenting the wide range of stories of the American experience. Only by expanding the NHPRC's programs to include pass-through grants to states will we be able to ensure this component of the American historical record survives.

FamilySearch operates the largest family history library in the world located in Salt Lake City, Utah. The library's purpose is to provide access to recorded genealogical data for use by family historians, genealogists, and others who have a legitimate interest in such information. Open to the public at no charge, the library has over 4,500 branches (called family history centers) in 88 countries.

The Family History Library serves over 750,000 patrons annually at the facility in Salt Lake City. An estimated 10-12 million people are served throughout the extended family history center network. This reauthorization is of particular interest to FamilySearch International and all of the patrons we serve because of its significant impact on records preservation and access initiatives that are currently stalled or cancelled, the result of ongoing budget cuts associated with the global economic situation.

We heartily and unequivocally endorse the reauthorization of NHPRC.

Respectfully,



Ransom H. Love
Senior Vice President
FamilySearch International/Genealogical Society of Utah



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22204-4370
(703) 525-0050 (800) 473-0060
Fax (703) 525-0052

5 June 2010

Chairman William Lacy Clay
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and the National Archives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

RE: Support for federal funding to archives through reauthorization of the
National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

Dear Chairman Clay:

The National Genealogical Society, which was founded in 1903, represents approximately nine thousand members who are interested in researching their family history across the United States and back to their country of origin.

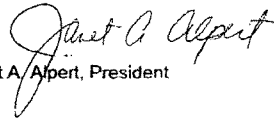
The National Genealogical Society supports reauthorization of NHPRC because through its grant funding, NHPRC has made it possible to preserve many archival records that provide the foundation for historical research in this country. We have seen the positive impact that NHPRC grants have made in thousands of organizations and communities, both large and small, throughout our country. Also through support of documentary editions of the papers of important historical persons such as the Founding Fathers and Martin Luther King, Jr., NHPRC has helped preserve these personal papers and make them more accessible for research.

The current authorized level of NHPRC funding is woefully inadequate, so in addition to being reauthorized, NHPRC should be appropriated at a significantly higher level. The federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars to support history programs in general, but NHPRC receives only a small amount--\$10 million-- to support records programs that in turn support historical research. In addition to more funding, NHPRC should also be expanded to include a pass-through grant program with resources directed to states and localities to ensure that documents and archival records in many forms can be readily used for a host of purposes by the people of this nation.

Much of the American record—evidence of births, education, marriage (and divorce), property held, obligations satisfied and criminal conduct, evidence of the lives of individuals, families, groups and businesses—is held at the state and local level. Our state and local governments and history organizations preserve the records that protect our rights and document our democratic society. This evidence is essential to documenting the wide range of stories of the American experience.

Only by expanding the NHPRC's programs to include pass-through grants to states will we be able to ensure this component of the American historical record survives.

Respectfully,



Janet A. Alpert, President

June 5, 2010

The Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Sub-committee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives
US House of Representatives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Clay and Committee Members,

I write to support the proposed five-year **reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)**. This important agency provides crucial links to our collective American past. Some of its many worthy activities include publishing historical documents that foster comprehension and appreciation of the history of the United States and the identification, collection, description, reformatting, and preservation of documentary sources significant to our history and culture. Committed to the broadest possible access for citizens, the NHPRC is engaged as well in electronic records projects wherein are established policies, best practices, and tools for long-term preservation and access. Additionally, the NHPRC promotes the continuing development of professional skills for archivists, records managers, and historical editors.

With all our present skills and tools, what we today cannot "create" is our past. We stand to lose much of our collective historical and cultural conscious without the ongoing work of the NHPRC. Since 1976, the over 4200 NHPRC projects have preserved and made available the "who we were" that so shapes the "who we are" as Americans.

Reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission is a bipartisan opportunity for members of Congress to help Americans claim and know their heritage through the agency's publications, electronic records projects, and related programs.

Thanks to you and committee members for your service on this committee and for your service for citizens across our nation. Please feel free to contact me should you need further information.

Lorraine Hale Robinson
Director, Center for the Liberal Arts and
Senior Associate Editor, *North Carolina Literary Review*
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
East Carolina University
robinsonlo@ecu.edu
252.328.1538

June 6, 2010

Dear Representatives Clay and Olver:

Thank you, Mr. Clay, for introducing a five-year reauthorization bill the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) that would allow an annual expenditure of up to \$20 million in grants for all five years. If enacted, this will represent a doubling of the current authorization level, which has not been increased in over a decade.

And for John Olver, please see the House Oversight Committee's web site, <http://oversight.house.gov/>. Please note that the NHPRC is prominently featured on House Minority Whip Eric Cantor's list of target eliminations: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/YouCut/>. I am grateful you have been a supporter of the NHPRC in the past and I hope very much your support will continue. As you know, this agency as funded many research projects here in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts.

For historians and students all over this nation the NHPRC has supported the preservation of local historical materials. For all citizens, the NHPRC has enabled publication of these materials that are an essential part of our American heritage. Please see the following websites for more information:

http://www.nhalliance.org/advocacy/issues/NHPRC_funding/index.shtml.
<http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/projects/states-territories/>

Sincerely,

Patricia G. Holland
 President
 The Jones Library Board of Trustees
 Amherst, Mass.



June 7, 2010

Honorable William Lacy Clay
Chairman
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and the National Archives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Clay:

On June 9 your Subcommittee will hold hearings on the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) members have a continuing interest in the preservation of key government documents in electronic form. NASCIO represents state chief information officers and information technology managers from the states, territories, and the District of Columbia.

Throughout its history the NHPRC has funded cutting edge and model programs for the preservation of electronic records. The work of NHPRC has a direct affect on the states' abilities to identify and preserve electronic records that must be retained permanently. We urge Congress to reauthorize the NHPRC. As state officials responsible for information technology, my colleagues and I in the states continue to struggle with new challenges presented by a growing portfolio of electronic records and digital content that must be preserved.

NHPRC is the only federal program devoted to archives and records, and its applications always far exceed its resources. Unfortunately, many of the needs identified at the state and local level must go unmet. We ask that Congress increase funding to NHPRC to include a pass-through grant program with resources directed to states and localities to ensure that documents and archival records in many forms can be readily used for a host of purposes by the people of this nation. Such funds would permit each state and territory to identify its greatest records needs, including those pertaining to electronic records, and meet them in a continuing and systematic way.

Expanding NHPRC's role to pass-through funding would be a timely measure since such funding would provide much-needed jobs in support of electronic records preservation and accessibility. In addition, expanded funding would help prepare the workforce of tomorrow to work with electronic records.

NHPRC supports electronic records in many ways, and we thank you for your continued support of NHPRC.

We appreciate your time and attention, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Stephen Fletcher NASCIO President

June 7, 2010

The Honorable William Lacy Clay
Chairman, Subcommittee on Information Policy,
Census and the National Archives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Clay:

I hope that this letter finds you well. I don't think I've seen you since the reception that occurred at UMSL several years ago when we gathered to celebrate the publication of your father's book--far too long ago!

I am writing to encourage you to support the reauthorization of federal funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). As I am sure you know, the NHPRC provides grant funding that is essential to ensuring the preservation of the American historical record through supporting documentary editions of the papers of important persons in our history, ranging from the Founding Fathers to Martin Luther King, Jr., and for projects to ensure the preservation of archival records that provide the foundation for historical research in this country. Just recently, I completed a biography of George Washington Carver for Greenwood Press/ABC-CLIO. I could not have completed that project without having access to the Carver Papers, which were microfilmed through an NHPRC grant a number of years ago. Because of that project, I was able to access the Carver Papers through my *alma mater*, Lincoln University, without traveling to Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars to support history programs in general, but NHPRC receives only a small amount--\$10 million—to support records programs that in turn support historical research. As the executive director of the State Historical Society of Missouri, and the former state archivist of Missouri, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that NHPRC grants have made in scores of organizations and communities, large and small, throughout Missouri and the nation. The current authorized level of NHPRC funding is woefully inadequate, so in addition to being reauthorized, I would hope that NHPRC could be funded at a significantly higher level.

June 7, 2010

The Honorable William Lacy Clay
Chairman, Subcommittee on Information Policy,
Census and the National Archives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

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Indeed, in addition to more funding, I would like to see NHPRC expanded to include a pass-through grant program with resources directed to states and localities to ensure that documents and archival records in many forms can be readily used for a host of purposes by the people of this nation. Much of the American record—evidence of births, education, marriage (and divorce), property held, obligations satisfied and criminal conduct, evidence of the lives of individuals, families, groups and businesses—is held at the state and local level. Our state and local governments and history organizations preserve the records that are the lifeblood of our democratic society. This evidence is essential to documenting the complexity of the American experience. Only by expanding the NHPRC's programs to include pass-through grants to states will we be able to ensure this component of the American historical record survives.

Thank you for all that you do for the citizens of Missouri and the nation on a daily basis! I hope that you will feel comfortable supporting reauthorization of the NHPRC, expanding its funding and even expanding its capacity to assist document and record preservation at the state and local level.

Please remember me to you father!

Warmest regards,

Gary R. Kremer
Executive Director



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
AND COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Statement of David M. Steiner
President, University of the State of New York
and
Commissioner, New York State Education Department

To

House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and the National Archives

In Support of Reauthorizing and Expanding the National Historical Publications and
Records Commission (NHPRC)

The New York State Education Department joins our colleagues in the archival and historical community to support the reauthorization of the NHPRC's grants program at a level of \$20 million with an additional \$20 million to initiate a program of pass-through grants to the states.

NHPRC needs to sustain national competitive grants to ensure that essential historical records are preserved and made widely available for researchers, students and teachers and the general public. It is critical, however, that NHPRC be expanded also to provide pass-through funding to each state and territory to support care for and access to the historical records that form part of the fabric of this nation's history. Much of the American record—evidence of births, education, marriage, property held, obligations satisfied and criminal conduct—is held at the state and local levels. Our state and local governments and history organizations preserve the records that protect our rights. They are essential to documenting our democracy and preserving the rights and pursuits of our citizens.

New York has over 3,000 non-profit organizations and 4,300 local governments that preserve and make accessible the historical records of this state. They provide essential information to sustain the work of classroom teachers, historians, biographers, documentary filmmakers, journalists, lawyers, land surveyors, genealogists, museum exhibit designers and many more—all citizens who rely on being able to find and use the evidence of our past to do their jobs, trace their roots and, of particular concern, to teach others about our history and heritage. We cannot accomplish this in New York without the reauthorization of NHPRC and its expansion to include pass-through grants to the states.

NHPRC is critical to the ability of teachers in New York to help their students meet the appropriate achievement levels in our state standards in social studies. The standards recommend that students research the primary documents of their family, community and

Statement of David M. Steiner, Commissioner,
New York State Education Department
In Support Of Reauthorizing and Expanding the National Historical
Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

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state to develop the ability to analyze and think critically. These community and state documents provide an essential touchstone for students, bringing the larger trends and events of history to a context that is familiar and comprehensible to them. To accomplish this, teachers must have access to strong historical records programs where the documents comprising our history have been preserved and are readily available. NHPRC has provided essential funding to ensure that this record does indeed exist for the use of teachers and students. Excellent examples of institutions that have used NHPRC funds to identify, preserve, and make their records available to teachers and students are the Westchester County Archives, the Wagner Labor Archives at New York University, the Albany County Hall of Records, Historic Cherry Hill Museum, the New York State Historical Association, the Onondaga Historical Association, and Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

NHPRC funding also has been critical to ensuring that the documentary history of all New York's communities is preserved and made available for students. Our State Historical Records Advisory Board has, with NHPRC funding, initiated a series of projects resulting in the identification and preservation of documentation from communities and topics that have not been adequately represented previously in this historical record. This includes ethnic and racial groups such as Latinos, Koreans, Greeks, and African-Americans as well as topics such as environmental affairs, mental health, deindustrialization, and labor history. These efforts provide "voice" to all New Yorkers, and again provide students with connection to a history that includes communities and people like themselves. That ability to identify with people and issues in the past is critical for teachers in presenting essential social studies concepts.

The immense benefits NHPRC funding provides to the students and communities in New York are essential to the continuing preservation of our state's and our country's historical records. The people of our state need access to this invaluable heritage. On behalf of the students, teachers, and citizens of New York, I ask you to ensure that NHPRC is reauthorized and a program of pass-through grants to the states is instituted.

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International Institute of Municipal Clerks
Professionalism in Local Government through Education

Monday, June 7, 2010

Chairman William Lacy Clay
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and the National Archives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Clay:

On behalf of the Board of the Directors of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, a non-profit Organization with more than 10,000 members worldwide, we are writing in support of federal funding to archives through the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Connections to the past are essential to sustaining our democracy, educating our youth, enriching our sense of place in family and community, supporting information needs in our business and legal affairs, and making reasoned decisions about our nation's future direction. Resources need to be directed to states and regions to ensure essential care so that documents and archival records, in many forms, can be readily used for a host of purposes by the people of this nation.

IIMC's members over the years have relied on NHPRC to provide grant funding that is essential to ensuring the preservation of the American historical record through supporting documentary editions of the papers of important persons in our history ranging from the Founding Fathers to Martin Luther King, Jr., and for projects to ensure the preservation of archival records that provide the foundation for historical research in this country.

We realize that the federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars to support history programs in general, but NHPRC receives only a small amount--\$10 million-- to support records programs that in turn support historical research. We have seen the positive impact that NHPRC grants have made in thousands of organizations and communities, both large and small, throughout our country. The current authorized level of NHPRC funding is woefully inadequate, so in addition to being reauthorized, NHPRC should be appropriated at a significantly higher level.

In addition to more funding, NHPRC should be expanded to include a pass-through grant program with resources directed to states and localities to ensure that documents and archival records in many forms can be readily used for a host of purposes by the people of this nation.

Municipal Clerks are the gateway to our city halls and are entrusted with ensuring the preservation of public records. Much of the American record--evidence of births, education, marriage (and divorce), property held, obligations satisfied and criminal conduct, evidence of the lives of individuals, families, groups and businesses--is held at the state and local level. Our state and local governments and history organizations preserve the records that protect our rights and document our democratic society. This evidence is essential to documenting the wide range of stories of the American experience. Only by expanding the NHPRC's programs to include pass-through grants to states will we be able to ensure this component of the American historical record survives.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian Shalby
Executive Director

8331 Utica Avenue Suite 200 • Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730
Phone (909) 944-4162 • Messages (800) 251-1639 • Fax (909) 944-8545 • hq@iimc.com • www.iimc.com

The Conference of New York State Historians

To our representatives in Congress:

As New York State historians and lovers of the history of the Empire State, we strongly support the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and its expansion to include a pass-through grants program for the states. The existence of a comprehensive, accessible historical record is an essential foundation of scholarship, and vital to a democratic society. New York has been intimately involved in the struggles, triumphs and challenges facing this country from early contact in the 1600s through present-day terrorist attacks, economic turmoil, and social change.

The work of biographers, historians, documentary filmmakers, school teachers, genealogists, journalists, local historians, and students at all levels of education relies on the availability of a comprehensive and balanced historical record. NHPRC funding in New York has made it possible to significantly expand and make available critical resources in the history of this state and the nation. Thanks to NHPRC, records ranging from 17th-century Dutch colonial documents to electronic versions of post 9/11 geo-thermal maps have been preserved and made accessible. Records of New Yorkers have been identified and made accessible in repositories, whether from journalist Lowell Thomas, architect Cass Gilbert, or the previously unknown names of Italian immigrants, members of the St. Regis Mohawk tribe, upstate farmers, or New York City factory workers. Records of the country's oldest privately-owned bank or recent Latino businesses have all benefited from NHPRC funding. When these records are identified, preserved and made available, the astonishing breadth of New York's history can be researched and shared with students and teachers, the public, policy makers, and leaders in our communities and country.

It is critical that Congress reauthorize NHPRC to continue the important work it has undertaken with such dramatic and successful results. It is also absolutely essential that Congress expand NHPRC to include a pass-through grant program for the states so that the full range of the perspectives, events, and stories of New Yorkers can be made accessible for historians, genealogists, students and teachers and a wide range of researchers in this state and around the nation. We urge the Subcommittee to take positive action to ensure the history of our state and this nation is available for all.

The undersigned individuals support this request on behalf of New York's history and historical records:

Name

Institution

Rosemarie Tucker
Butler

Town of Grafton Historians
NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOC.

William C. Roper
Richard L. Brown
John L. Loh

GTC Press, Rochester, N.Y.
Chemungo County Historian
Chemungo County Historian's Office

Susan & Cathie
 Mitchell
 Pam Brown
 G. Smith
 Martha A. Selby
 Ann Marie Piggott
 Nancy H. Brondley
 Joan A. Rice
 Suzanne M. Jensen
 Norma Schell
 April L. Schaffer
 H. Deane
 Debra McCone
 Ann McNamara
 Peter Freeman
 Judy Himmelfarb
 Elaine Enger
 Carol Hammen
 Bruce W. Deastyns
 Melodie Valenciano
 Marilyn Butler
 Zola E.

Sussex County Historian
 Chautauque County Historian
 Valley of Pennsylvania Historian

University of Missouri
 Congress Park Station Broken
 Independent Researcher

Greene Historical Society

Neighborhood Railroad Museum Society
 Minersville Valley Historical Society
 Grafton Town Clerk

Fashion Institute of Technology
 University at Albany SUNY
 Independent Historian, Albany, N.Y.

Institute of History Archaeology & Education
 "New York Archaeology" magazine

Cornell University
 110 Iroquois Road, Ithaca
 Guildenland N.Y.
 Rochester City School District
 Teacher

Marathon, NY
 NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES

Robert MacDonnell	Chateaufort, NY
Linda Ziller	Chestertown, NY
Bahette Huber	Victor Town Historian
Donna C. Tait	Empire State College
Harvey Stum	Sage College of Albany
Tom Edred	Arden Springs, N.Y.
Hub Keller	Farmville, NY
Opilbert	Mussumise
John A.	Last Mercutio, NY
Grace Alden	Genesee, NY
David Munro	Pittsford N.Y.
John D. Sloan	Albany, NY
Laura Lee Linder	2115 Route 67, Charlton, NY 12019
Warren F. Braker, Jr.	Town of Charlton Historian
Gina Wojcik-Szuch	Archives of Historical Concerns, 151 Refined House
Robert W. DeF	of Schenectady
Paul Reese	LAUSANNE, NY
David D.	Oriskany Community Museum House (Oriskany NY)
Ann Sanford	Plainville, NY
Peter J. Roth	Westport, NY
	Dutchess County Hist. Soc.
	Independent
	Ithaca, NY

Constitution
 Councilman, 1900

Elizabeth B. Haigh
 Indef. school

Morris A. Haigh

James D. Falts N.Y. State Archives

Catalie A. Taylor 496 Clarendon Rd. Knickerbocker NY 11553
 Hofstadter Emerita

Teresa K. Lohr

The College at Brockport, SUNY

Dorothy E. Thornton

SUNY Cortland

Judith Willman

SUNY Oswego

Valerie Ruffing

Town of Nunda Historian

Mary Z. White

The History Center in Tupper Lake

Louise Benich

Amenda J. Jume

Public history student, SUNY Albany

David George

Asst. Historian, Town of Ithaca

William G. Andrews

Brockport, NY

Bob S. Dai

Director, Fishelstein Memorial Library,
 Spring Valley, NY

FR Roscoe Weiss

166 Roscoe St. Albany NY 12206



Council of State Archivists

Documenting government · Promoting history · Securing rights

June 7, 2010

The Honorable William Lacy Clay, Jr., Chairman
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Clay:

The Council of State Archivists (CoSA), representing the state archivists of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories, requests Congress to reauthorize funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-making arm of the National Archives and Records Administration, at an annual level of \$40 million each year for 2010-2014. This would allow for \$20 million in competitive grants at the national level and \$20 million in formula-based, pass-through funding to be distributed through the states and territories.

The NHPRC funding authorization level has not changed since 1991, but the need and the number of grant applications has grown and the challenges have increased. We are seeking increased funding for the national competitive grants program that NHPRC has managed so effectively. We are also asking for support for an additional, formula-based, pass-through grant program to support historical records preservation in the states. The pass-through funds would be distributed according to priorities set by each state and territory to address its own specific needs in preserving America's historical records.

NHPRC has funded more than 4,600 projects in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories, but NHPRC can fund only a fraction of the requests it receives from the nation's 14,000 archives and manuscript repositories and 86,000 local governments. In these facilities—often inadequately housed and staffed—lay the records that tell the history of America from the bottom up. NHPRC is the only federal program that focuses on these efforts; much more needs to be done. Establishing a formula-based, pass-through grant program would be a significant start.

The projects supported by NHPRC's funding are critical not only to sustain the heritage of our country, but to provide employment opportunities nationwide. Historical records projects are "jobs-heavy." An analysis of existing records grant programs demonstrates that (on average) 75% of funds for such projects are used to pay staff. Full-funding of \$40 million would support more than 800 jobs annually in state and local governments, colleges, nonprofits, and other community-based organizations nationwide.

For the last 50 years, NHPRC has energized archival projects across the country by investing its funds to:

- Document the 'grass-roots' history of our nation by supporting state and local archives;
- Underwrite critical research projects that produce cost-effective models that can be copied by archives across the country, thereby avoiding duplication of effort and providing practical solutions that smaller archives could not otherwise afford;
- Foster innovative programs for education, electronic records preservation, and online access;
- Preserve the records that tell the story of our nation, from the papers of our Founding Fathers (and Mothers), to lesser-known figures whose contributions to the country might be unknown but for NHPRC's intervention; and

Council of State Archivists
308 East Burlington Street #189
Iowa City, IA 52240

Voice: 319.338.0248
Fax: 319.354.2526
Email: info@statearchivists.org

- Encourage archival programs that reflect the diversity of our nation by supporting efforts in state and territorial governments, local governments, colleges and universities, Native American tribes, emerging cultures, religious communities, preservation groups, community organizations, State Historical Records Advisory Boards, and countless others.

NHPRC has a remarkable record of achievement, using a relatively small amount of money to make a major impact. The Commission's leadership was recognized by the Society of American Archivists in 2009 when it awarded NHPRC with its Distinguished Service Award. The following were just some of the accomplishments and contributions cited in making that award:

- NHPRC was one of the earliest supporters of projects grappling with the preservation of electronic records, providing seed money to initiate electronic records archives programs and to build collaborative solutions. As increasing numbers of records are created and stored electronically, it is imperative that NHPRC continue to support new research as well as the implementation of solutions that its grantees have already developed in order to ensure that important records are not lost or abandoned as rapid changes in hardware or software unfold.
- In addition to ensuring long-term preservation of electronic records, NHPRC has also funded important projects to digitize historical records that previously existed only in paper form. NHPRC's support has made a rapidly growing number of these documents, photographs, maps, and other one-of-a-kind materials available online to students, scholars, teachers, and the general public who can now view these documents from their own homes and classrooms.
- Local governments hold many records that are essential to securing individual rights, protecting residents against disaster, and sustaining the heritage of communities. Many cities and counties have received NHPRC funds – some directly, and others through regrants from projects administered by state archives – to establish records programs, train staff, and digitize holdings. The importance of this support is especially evident as governments at all levels struggle with severely reduced budgets and growing demands for information and accountability, both of which are dependent on records.
- NHPRC has also been a leader in professional development, supporting the training and education of those who care for our nation's historical archives. They have fostered innovative approaches and best practices.
- Above all, NHPRC has preserved – directly or indirectly – the records and papers that tell the story of our nation: from George Washington to Martin Luther King, Jr. Because of their efforts generations of Americans can understand and more fully participate in our national life.

The beneficiaries of the work of the NHPRC are the citizens who need access to historical records. NHPRC projects – whether for digitization, preservation, electronic records research, or quick recovery of historical records in the aftermath of natural disasters – save our historical records and make them available to the public. An increase in the appropriation for the NHPRC competitive grant program and adding a separate stream of funding directly to the states will ensure that these records are available for generations to come, to support research by historians, genealogists, journalists, biographers, classroom teachers, documentary filmmakers, lawyers, land surveyors, museum exhibit designers, ordinary citizens – and members of Congress. We, as State Archivists, ask that Congress provide an increased authorization for the NHPRC, in order to preserve the collective memory of our great country.

Sincerely,

Patricia Michaelis

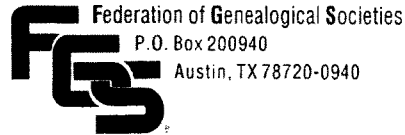
Patricia Michaelis
Director, State Archives and Library Division
Kansas State Historical Society
President, Council of State Archivists

Barbara Teague

Barbara Teague
State Archivist and Records Administrator
Director, Public Records Division
Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives
Vice President, Council of State Archivists

The following state and territorial archivists also affirm their support for this request to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Edwin Bridges, Director Alabama Department of Archives and History	David Cheever State Archivist Maine State Archives	Fred Previts Assistant State Archivist Ohio Historical Society
Glenn S. Cook, Deputy Director Alaska Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums, Department of Education and Early Development	Edward C. Papenfuse State Archivist Maryland State Archives	Susan C. McVey, State Records Administrator and Director, Oklahoma Department of Libraries
GladysAnn Wells, Director Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records	John D. Warner, Jr., Ph.D. Archivist of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Mary Beth Herkert, State Archivist Archives Division Office of the Secretary of State
Wendy Richter Director and State Historian Arkansas History Commission	Sandra Sageser Clark Director Michigan Historical Center	David Haury Director, Bureau of Archives and History Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Nancy Zimmelman Lenoil State Archivist California State Archives	Mark Harvey State Archivist Archives of Michigan	Milagros Pepin-Rivera Specialist in Cultural Affairs General Archives of Puerto Rico
Terry Ketelsen State Archivist Colorado State Archives	Robert Horton State Archivist Minnesota Historical Society	Gwenn Stearn, State Archivist & Public Records Administrator Rhode Island State Archives
Mark H. Jones State Archivist Connecticut State Library	H. T. Holmes, Director Mississippi Department of Archives and History	Eric Emerson, Director South Carolina Department of Archives and History
James R. Frazier, CRM Acting Director Delaware Public Archives	Julia Marks Young, Director Archives and Records Services Mississippi Department of Archives and History	Chelle Somsen State Archivist South Dakota State Historical Society-
Mark Mandel Public Records Administrator DC Office of Public Records	John Dougan Missouri State Archivist Missouri State Archives	Wayne Moore Assistant State Archivist Tennessee State Library & Archives
Jim Berberich Information Resources Management State Library and Archives of Florida	Jodie Foley Montana State Archivist Montana Historical Society	Jelain Chubb, State Archivist Texas State Library and Archives Commission
David Carmicheal Director The Georgia Archives	Andrea Faling State Archivist Nebraska State Historical Society	Patricia Smith-Mansfield Director Utah State Archives
Susan Shaner State Archivist Hawaii State Archives	Jeffrey M. Kintop State Archivist Nevada State Library and Archives	Gregory Sanford, State Archivist Vermont State Archives and Records Administration
Rod House Idaho State Archivist Idaho Public Archives & Research Library, Idaho State Historical Society	Frank C. Mevers Director and State Archivist New Hampshire Division of Archives & Records	Susan Laura Lugo, C.A. Territorial Coordinator for Archives Government of the Virgin Islands DPNR/Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums
David A. Joens Director Illinois State Archives	Karl J. Niederer, Director Division of Archives and Records Management, New Jersey State Archives	Suzy Szasz Palmer, Deputy Librarian of Virginia and Interim State Archivist Library of Virginia
Jim Corridan Director & State Archivist Indiana Commission on Public Records	Sandra Jaramillo, C.A., Director New Mexico State Records Center and Archives	Jerry Handfield State Archivist of Washington
Jerome Thompson Interim State Archivist State Historical Society of Iowa	Christine W. Ward New York State Archivist and Chief Executive Officer of the Archives Partnership Trust	Joseph N. Geiger, Jr. Director West Virginia Archives and History
Matthew Veatch State Archivist Kansas State Historical Society	Jesse R. Lankford, Jr. State Archivist North Carolina State Archives	Peter Gottlieb State Archivist Wisconsin Historical Society
Florent Hardy, Jr., Ph.D. State Archivist and Director Louisiana State Archives	Ann Jenks Director State Archives State Historical Society of North Dakota	Roger Joyce State Archivist Wyoming State Archives



Linking the Genealogical Community

June 7, 2010

The Honorable William Lacy Clay
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and the National Archives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

RE: Support Reauthorization of National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is to express the support of the Federation of Genealogical Societies for the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) and to suggest ways in which the valuable work of this Commission might be enhanced.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies is an umbrella society focused on the management of genealogical societies and addressing concerns of the genealogical community. Our hundreds of member societies represent the needs of over a half million genealogists.

The functions of the archivist and the researcher are inextricably linked. Without the information and documentation from these records, (and counterparts at the state and local level) our family histories become more legend than history. Whether historian, genealogist, educator, student, journalist, scientist, public health, public safety worker or Homeland Security, the validity of our work is a product of the quality of the records upon which they are based. Thus, we are all dependent upon how well the archivist collects, preserves and provides ready access to relevant information.

Many of our most relevant historical records are held at the state and local level. In addition to the ongoing threats of accidental or scheduled destruction, fiscal challenges have also threatened the preservation of the documentation of the wide range of stories of the American experience.

Even at a very modest funding level, the positive impact of projects that NHPRC grants have supported is widely recognized in our community. We would consider an increase in their funding level a wise investment and would support an expansion of their efforts to include a pass-through grant program to states and localities to ensure that this component of the American historical record survives.

Respectfully,

Patricia A. Oxley, President
Federation of Genealogical Societies
Austin, Texas
www.fgs.org

BEST BEST & KRIEGER

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John E. Brown
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John.Brown@bbklaw.com

June 8, 2010

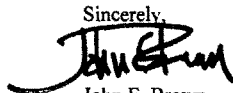
VIA U.S. MAIL AND FACSIMILE
(760) 599-5000

Congressman Darrell Issa
49th Congressional District Office
1800 Thibodo Road, Suite #310
Vista, CA 92081

Re: Reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission
(NHPRC)

Dear Mr. Issa:

I write you to encourage your support of the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) within the National Archives as a member of the House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and the National Archives. . As you know, we enjoy a rich and engaging history in Inland Southern California and local historical societies, museums and municipalities throughout your 49th Congressional District work very hard to preserve their historical records at the local level. The NHPRC has been instrumental in helping these types of small local organizations preserve their history. There is perhaps no better example of one of our local efforts than the longtime collaboration between Mr. and Mrs. Duane Roberts of the Historic Mission Inn Corporation and the Mission Inn Museum to preserve the records related to the more than half a century of entrepreneurial efforts by Frank Miller to build, and operate the Mission Inn, a National Historic Landmark. Please vote to support the preservation of our local history where it belongs, locally, by your own constituents and taxpayers, through this reauthorization.

Sincerely,

John E. Brown
of BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

JEB:ns

cc: David Crosson, California Historical Society
John Worden, Mission Inn Foundation
Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay

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STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE
OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

June 8, 2010

Chairman William Lacy Clay
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and the National Archives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Clay,

I write today in support for both the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) reauthorization bill (HR-1556) and the idea of expanding the bill to include pass-through grants.

The NHPRC provides grant funding to projects that are essential in ensuring the preservation of America's historical records which provide the foundation for historical research in this country. They have been an essential catalyst for projects that focus on the challenges of maintaining electronic records long-term.


The federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars to support history programs in general, but NHPRC receives only a small amount – \$10 million – to support records programs that in turn support historical research. We have seen the positive impact that NHPRC grants have made in thousands of organizations and communities our country. The current authorized level of NHPRC funding is woefully inadequate, particularly if we are to effectively ensure the preservation and accessibility of electronic records. In addition to being reauthorized, the NHPRC should be appropriated at a significantly higher level and expanded to include a pass-through grant program with resources directed at states and localities to ensure that documents and archival records, in many formats, can be readily available to the people of this nation.

The state archives are integral to the preservation of and provision of public access to the permanent records generated within each respective state. They are the state counterparts to the National Archives and Records Administration, and support for the state archives varies markedly, despite the universal acknowledgement of the value of their efforts and their holdings. The federal government is positioned to provide assistance to the states and, in turn, the states can best decide to employ in the manners that most appropriately meet their needs.

Chairman William Lacy Clay
June 8, 2010
Page 2

Much of the American record—evidence of births, education, marriage and divorce, property held, obligations satisfied and criminal conduct, evidence of the lives of individuals, families, groups and businesses—is held at the state and local level. This evidence is essential to documenting the wide range of stories of the American experience. Only by expanding the NHPRC's programs to include pass-through grants to states will we be able to ensure this component of the American historical record survives.

This initiative also raises the work of the archives around the country -- even in this relatively modest step -- to a position in keeping with federal support for the arts, historic preservation, libraries and museums. Certainly, the archives belong in the pantheon of vital cultural endeavors, and the measure within the NHPRC reauthorization begins to accomplish that.

Sincerely,

Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State

cc: Dave Cheever, State Archivist

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 19, 1963

Dear Mr. Boutin:

I congratulate you and the National Historical Publications Commission on this report. Documents are the primary sources of history; they are the means by which later generations draw close to historical events and enter into the thoughts, fears and hopes of the past. For more than a decade, the Commission has done the most valuable work in stimulating publication from the documentary sources of American history. This work, now progressing with such momentum, must not be allowed to falter. I note with pleasure that our scholars are already speaking of these remarkable cooperative undertakings as achieving no less than a "bloodless revolution" in American historiography.

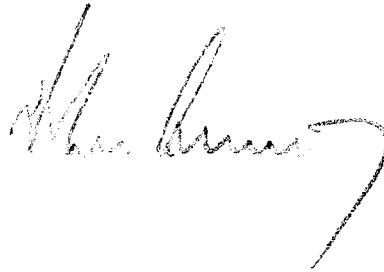
As the bicentennial of our Revolution draws near, it is doubly important that we move ahead with the task of establishing and publishing authentic texts of the writings of the Founding Fathers. We must also see to completion the project, now well advanced, to collect and publish materials relating to the adoption of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Hardly less important is the proposal to publish contemporary documents describing the work of the First Congress in launching the new government under the Constitution. This documentation should have been available long ago to our citizens. Other areas of our history have their own significance, and I am glad to see the Commission is giving consideration to them.

If the Commission is to plan a balanced national

program of editing and publication for the next ten years, with collecting and microfilming activities to support and supplement letterpress publication, it must have resources on which it can depend. Compared with the funds required for other programs for the national good, those requested by this Commission for this program are modest indeed. I feel confident that our private foundations and the Federal Government will together agree to provide the necessary budget. The amendatory legislation needed to make this cooperative program a reality has my full approval.

I wish you continued success in this great effort to enable the American people to repossess its historical heritage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William H. Brown", with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Honorable Bernard L. Boutin
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 5, 1964

For	For
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Info.
Prepare Reply	
For Signature of	
Furnish Copy of	
Reply to	
Copy also sent to	

Acknowledge within 48 hours
or Reply By

Dear Mr. Boutin:

I am glad to note that the bill (HR 6237) to authorize the National Historical Publications Commission to make small grants to encourage the preservation, compilation and publication of the original documents of our history is now before the Senate. I agree fully with the letter President Kennedy wrote last year in support of this project.

America has had a proud history, and the American people are entitled to have the documentary record of our past and the papers of our great statesmen and leaders compiled and published in easily available form. Federal participation in the program will help support and stimulate our archival agencies, historical societies, research libraries and related educational institutions to share their documentary holdings with universities and colleges throughout the land and with the American people. I look forward particularly to the completion of the projects to publish the papers of the Adamsses, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson and Madison.

This bill supplements and, in the field of American history, is an essential adjunct to, the major legislation in aid of education enacted by Congress last session.

It is my hope that the Senate will complete action on the bill early in the new session. I would like it to be in time to permit the necessary appropriations for the coming year and to allow the National Historical Publications Commission to make its plans with this in mind.

Sincerely,



Honorable Bernard L. Boutin
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington, D. C.

June 9, 2010

Wildomar, CA

The Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives
US House of Representatives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

I am in support of the five year reauthorization bill for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Little is being done in our area to record and consider our historical past. This would potentially be a great help to our local historical organizations.

Yours

Bob Cashman
Member Wildomar City Council and
consultant for the Wildomar Historical Society



University Libraries
Archives & Rare Books Library
University of Cincinnati
PO Box 210113
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0113

Blegen Library
(513) 556-1959

June 11, 2010

Congressman Steve Driehaus
408 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

Dear Representative Driehaus:

I write you to solicit and encourage your support of the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) within the National Archives as member of the House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and the National Archives.

As you know, we have a very rich heritage in Cincinnati and the State of Ohio, and the people here enjoy the vital historical resources of a wide variety of museums, historical societies, and archival repositories. The NHPRC has been instrumental in helping these caretakers preserve and make available these materials for teaching, research, and community engagement. For instance, a recent grant to us by the NHPRC will allow us to fully process the papers of Theodore Berry, Cincinnati's first African American mayor and a key figure in Lyndon Johnson's civil rights initiatives. These documents will provide students, scholars, and the general public with a fuller understanding of our community and its place in national affairs.

Please vote to support the preservation of our local history where it belongs – in our community, used by your own constituents and taxpayers, through this reauthorization.

With thanks and best wishes,

Kevin Grace
Head and University Archivist



11 June 2010

Congressman Wm. Lacy Clay
625 N. Euclid St., Suite 326
St. Louis, MO 63108

RE: Reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records
Commission
(NHPRC)

Dear Mr. Clay:

I am writing to encourage your support of the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) within the National Archives as a member of the House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and the National Archives. The NHPRC has been instrumental in helping institutions, both large and small, preserve and share the rich history and culture of Missouri. For example, a recent grant to the Missouri Secretary of State Office is helping 30 institutions preserve and provide access to historical records in their local communities through a series of workshops.

Please vote to support the preservation of our local history through this reauthorization.

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. Lukomski
Assistant Director for Collections
Western Historical Manuscript Collection
University of Missouri-Columbia

cc: Anthony Clark
Terry Davis, AASLH

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MASSACHUSETTS HALL
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138
(617) 495-1502

June 14, 2010

The Honorable William Lacy Clay
Chair, Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Clay:

I write to thank you for your leadership to support and strengthen the National Archive and Records Administration and, in particular, your efforts to accomplish the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission this year.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is small but critically important in our collective efforts to capture and tell our nation's story. With its modest budget, it offers researchers support to pursue important questions of our past as well as providing vital funding to preserve and make accessible key documents in our nation's history. From the papers of Founding Fathers, Presidents, and leading families to more basic government documents, the NHPRC is a critical partner in safeguarding the records of our shared past. I am particularly excited about the work the NHPRC has recently undertaken to explore digitization and technology to expand access to original source material. I believe these efforts will inspire scholars—young and old—to examine our past, create new knowledge, and improve our understanding of our nation.

As an historian, I am a longtime denizen of the National Archives. My 2008 book, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*, relied significantly on records maintained in the National Archives—journals, letters, communications between field commanders and their senior officers, pictures, periodicals, and everything in between. While many think these documents are just old, musty remnants of a long ago past, I believe they tell a compelling story that continues to play out in the events of today. Exploring these lessons of our past, and learning from them, offers substantial hope for our future.

The NHPRC is a critical element in this vital work. I have been pleased to follow your efforts to complete the reauthorization and am excited about the potential for this legislation to benefit the study of our nation's history. Certainly, updating the NHPRC's authorization to provide the potential of additional funding, as well as a new focus on access to these leading documents of our past will serve the NHPRC well into the future.

Once again, thank you for your work and please feel free to call on me if I can be of assistance in this effort.

Sincerely,



Drew Gilpin Faust

THE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

June 14, 2010

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
US House of Representatives
2332 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-3214

Re: Reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Administration (NHPRC)

Dear Representative Maloney:

I write to encourage your support of the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) within the National Archives as a member of the Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee. As you know, the rich history of New York City and New York State is unrivaled in the nation. Throughout your district and across the state approximately 1,000 historical societies, historic house museums and historic sites preserve the state's history, bringing it to life for millions of visitors and school children each year.

NHPRC funding facilitates a portion of this activity; these grants represent the breadth of historical records preservation and access across our state. For example, two recently funded New York City-based projects are the arrangement and description of the Margaret Sanger papers at NYU and the preservation of the records of the Paul Taylor Dance Foundation. But there are dozens more institutions across the city with archival treasure troves in critical need of NHPRC funding.

Please vote to support the preservation of our local history where it belongs, *locally*, by your own constituents and taxpayers, through this reauthorization.

Sincerely,

Anne W. Ackerson
Director

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center
of the
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3101 Clifton Avenue • Cincinnati, OH 45220-2488
(513) 221-1875 • Fax: (513) 221-7812

June 15, 2010

The Honorable Steve Driehaus
 c/o The United States House of Representatives
 408 Cannon HOB
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Driehaus:

We, the undersigned, are members of the administration of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, located on the historic Cincinnati campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. We know that you currently serve on the House's Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and the National Archives. In this regard, we are writing to urge you to support the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) which is administered by the National Archives and Records Administration.

The NHPRC is a vital component in the preservation of America's cultural and historical heritage, including its Ohio and Cincinnati Jewish heritage. The NHPRC has provided The Marcus Center with significant support over the years, from the preservation of our archival holdings to funding for a yearlong archival intern who assisted The Marcus Center in the planning and preparation for many of our programmatic and educational initiatives in the realm of public history. With the help of an NHPRC grant The Marcus Center was also able to preserve and make digital copies of one of the most important collections, the records of the World Jewish Congress, thereby providing access to researchers around the world to this incredible collection of records documenting the rescue and aid of Jews from the Holocaust era to the present.

Beyond being the recipients of NHPRC support, The Marcus Center's administration has worked with NHPRC staff in Washington, D.C. and Ohio in reviewing grant proposals, implementing and reviewing NHPRC funded projects,

and in discussions of the larger mission and goals of the Commission. As a result, we have firsthand knowledge of the many ways that the NHPRC benefits Ohioans - as well as the nation - in preserving American history and culture.

NHPRC is a non-partisan, fair, and balanced advocate for all Americans in the preservation of their distinct identities. And it does so openly, transparently, and with equanimity for all.

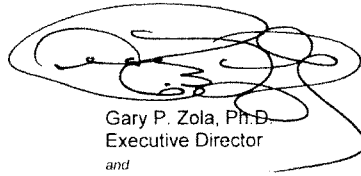
Located on the Cincinnati Campus of the
HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
 Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem

Marcus Center Web Site: www.huac.edu/aja

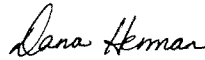
The NHPRC is critically important to the preservation of our nation's heritage and history. Without the NHPRC our national culture would be weakened. We respectfully encourage you to vote to reauthorize the NHPRC. We firmly believe that this important initiative merits Congressional reauthorization.

By reauthorizing the NHPRC, Congress will offer tangible evidence that the American people consider the preservation of our historical legacy one of this nation's highest priorities.

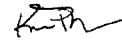
With sincerity and kindest regards,



Gary P. Zola, Ph.D.
Executive Director
and
Professor
of the
American Jewish Experience
at
Hebrew Union College –
Jewish Institute of Religion



Dana Herman, Ph.D.
Managing Editor &
Academic Associate



Kevin Proffitt,
M.S.L.S., M.A., C.A.
Senior Archivist for
Research and
Collections



July 1, 2010

The Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives
US House of Representatives
B-349C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Clay:

I write in behalf of the University of Virginia to express our support for the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an important grant program within the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

As you know, NHPRC grants ensure access to our nation's most important historical documents and information. As the history of the University is intertwined with the founding of our nation, we are deeply invested in sharing the founders' story with the public. NHPRC grants have supported activities here to research and publish the papers of George Washington and James Madison, as well as projects focused on the papers of Abraham Lincoln, John Jay, and Eleanor Roosevelt.

This reauthorization will help NHPRC advance archival activities into the 21st century and support innovative programs such as the Founding Fathers Online project, which would ensure that the complete papers of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington are available and fully searchable online.

We applaud your efforts to reauthorize this important federal program and your recent hearings regarding the reauthorization. We look forward to supporting H.R.1556 as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

John T. Casteen III
President

JTC:jdb

cc: The Honorable Tom Perriello

Mr. CLAY. Thank you so much, Mr. Ferriero.

We will suspend now with witness testimony and the subcommittee will recess and reconvene immediately after these series of votes.

[Recess.]

Mr. CLAY. The subcommittee will come to order. We will now pick up with Ms. Williams' testimony.

You are recognized for 5 minutes.

STATEMENT OF KATHLEEN M. WILLIAMS

Ms. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Chairman Clay and members of the subcommittee, for inviting me to participate in this hearing on the reauthorization of funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

I have been the executive director of the Commission since April 2008, and prior to that I served as deputy executive director for 4 years. During this time, I have had the privilege of overseeing a Federal grantmaking agency that plays a unique and valuable role in helping Americans access their historical records and that leverages its resources to maximum advantage.

Grantees each year develop and implement dozens of projects to publish, preserve, and make known the Nation's most important collections of archives and personal papers to scholars, researchers, teachers, and ordinary citizens in every corner of America. Since 1964, the Commission has funded approximately 4,800 projects across the country. These projects in turn have laid the groundwork for countless venues that increase our understanding of the American story and reach millions of Americans, including classroom use of historical documents in schools; public exhibitions at historic societies and museums; prize-winning biographies of the founding fathers and other notable Americans; television series on the Civil War, John Adams, and numerous other topics; and new digitized collections that document such varied subjects as the history of the Florida Everglades and the work of noted conservationist Aldo Leopold.

Through our grants programs, we are able to leverage funds from private and public resources to augment the Federal dollars we invest. In addition, the majority of Commission grants support jobs that move these projects forward.

In the panels this afternoon, you will learn about the work of historians, documentary editors, and archivists, and the catalytic role the Commission plays in advancing that work for public benefit. You will learn about the thousands of repositories across the country that struggle with caring for and providing access to the Nation's historical records.

Over the next 5 years, the Commission seeks to address several critical needs through its programs. First, one of the Commission's cornerstone grants programs is in publishing historical records, which supports projects that transcribe, annotate, and publish the historical records that document the American story, including the founding era, the modern Presidency, the civil rights movement, and more. To date, we have supported some 300 projects, a body of work that tells the Nation's remarkable history in the words of those who made that history. In the Internet age, digital additions

have become vital tools for both preserving and making accessible primary source materials. In the years ahead, we should ensure historians and editors the opportunity to creatively adapt to the advantages of online publishing.

Second, the archives field must address several challenges in dealing with the numerous backlog of unprocessed records and providing online access to collections. Over the past few years, the Commission has spearheaded new grant opportunities implementing approaches to archival work that address the hidden collections of historical documents to eliminate these backlogs and rapidly get these historical collections known and available to the public. We also are funding projects to digitize entire collections of historical records and put them online, using cost-effective methods and a streamlined approach. Institutions ranging from Princeton to the Denver Public Library are rapidly changing their approaches to archival cataloging preservation and providing online access to substantial collections through our grants.

Third, at present, the NHPRC supports State historical records advisory boards with grants to develop statewide services and training in archives, as well as offering effective re-grant programs. The vast majority of State boards actively partner with the Commission in these vital efforts. In Missouri, for example, our partnership with the State board recently helped support a re-grant program for 14 projects across that State, including the archives of historic Booneville, the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, and the architectural archives at the St. Joseph Museums. The Commission stands ready to do more of this kind of work to strengthen historical records preservation and use.

Finally, we are eager to develop targeted grants program that focuses on improving access to the Nation's records of servitude and emancipation. These documents are often extremely difficult to find and use, but they are critical resources for anyone doing genealogical and other historical research.

The National Archives serves as a hub for the Nation's archives and the NHPRC is a key part of that process. The Commission looks forward to serving as a true and effective Federal partner in preserving and facilitating access to the Nation's historical records.

Thank you again for this opportunity to discuss the Commission with the committee, and I look forward to answering your questions about the NHPRC and its work.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Williams follows:]

TESTIMONY OF KATHLEEN WILLIAMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION POLICY, CENSUS AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES
OF THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
ON
“STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND
RECORDS COMMISSION”

JUNE 9, 2010

Thank you Chairman Clay and members of the Subcommittee for inviting me to participate in this hearing on the reauthorization of funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

I have been the Executive Director of the Commission since April 2008, and prior to that, I served as Deputy Executive Director for 4 years. During this time, I have had the privilege of overseeing a Federal grantmaking agency that helps Americans access historical records and that leverages its resources to maximum advantage. Ultimately we measure our success by the success of the grantees that each year develop and implement dozens of projects to publish, preserve, and make known the nation’s most important collections of archives and personal papers. They, in turn, measure their success not only by the amount of historical records they publish, preserve and make available but by how useful those archives are to scholars, researchers, teachers, and ordinary citizens in every corner of America.

Since 1964, the Commission has funded approximately 4,800 projects across the country. A summary of some of the results include:

- *Over 950 published volumes of documentary editions*
- *Hundreds of professionals schooled in the best practices in documentary editing and the stewardship of historical records*
- *Over 2,800 archives projects, resulting in the preservation and cataloging of thousands of historical document collections*
- *165 new archival repositories established in colleges and universities, museums and other non-profits, and governments, including Native American tribes*

All of these projects, in turn, have laid the groundwork for countless venues that increase our understanding of the American Story—from classroom use of documents in schools to special exhibitions at historical societies and museums; from the prize-winning biographies of the Founding Fathers to special television series on the Civil War; from the history of emancipated slaves to new digital online collections documenting everything from the history of the Florida Everglades to the work of noted conservationist Aldo Leopold.

Every day people in all corners of the country use the records preserved and made available through the grants awarded by the Commission. Through our grants programs, we are able to leverage funds from private and public resources to augment the Federal dollars we invest. In addition, the majority of Commission grants go toward supporting jobs that move these projects forward. In the panels this afternoon you will learn more about the work of historians, documentary editors, archivists and others and the catalytic role the Commission plays in advancing that work for public benefit. You will learn about the thousands of repositories across

the country that struggle with caring for and providing access to the nation's historical documents.

Over the next five years, the Commission seeks to address the following critical needs through its programs:

1. Publishing Historical Records

One of the NHPRC's cornerstone grants programs is in Publishing Historical Records which supports projects that collect, transcribe, annotate and publish the historical records that document the American story from the early days of the Republic right up through the modern Presidency, the Civil Rights Movement, and more. To date, we have supported some 300 projects, and this body of work comprises a remarkable monument to American history. Publishing has taken a great leap forward in the Internet Age, and digital editions and online collections have become vital tools for both preserving and making accessible primary source materials. In the years ahead, we must simultaneously support historians and editors as they continue their careful research and ensure that these efforts creatively adapt to take advantage of online publishing and other innovations.

2. Archives and Historical Records

The archives field must address several challenges in dealing with the tremendous backlog of unprocessed records, providing online access to collections using cost effective methods, and tackling electronic records. Over the past few years, the NHPRC has spearheaded an effort to address the "hidden" collections of historical documents by

offering new grant opportunities for implementing approaches to archival work that eliminate these work backlogs and get these historical collections known and available to the public in rapid order. We also are funding projects to digitize entire collections and put them online, using cost effective methods and a streamlined approach. The response to and results of these new programs have been positive—institutions ranging from Princeton University to the Denver Public Library are rapidly changing their approaches to archival cataloging and preservation, and providing online access to substantial collections through NHPRC grants. In addition, our investment in research and development in Electronic Records has enabled institutions and, increasingly, consortia of institutions to undertake important efforts to preserve and make available electronic records collections.

3. Targeted Grants Programs

At present the NHPRC supports state historical records advisory boards with a program of modest-sized grants to develop statewide services and training in archival practices and to offer popular and effective regrant programs. The vast majority of state boards actively partner with the Commission in these vital efforts. In Missouri, for example, our partnership with the state board recently helped support a regrants program for 14 projects across the state, including the archives of Historic Boonville, the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, and the architectural archives at the St. Joseph Museums. The Commission stands ready to do more of this kind of work to strengthen historical records preservation and use at the local level.

As noted earlier, the Commission is uniquely positioned to focus on a variety of historical records challenges and to use its programming to address them. For example, we are eager to develop a targeted grants program that focuses on improving access to the nation's records of servitude and emancipation. These documents are often extremely difficult to find and use, but they are critical resources for anyone doing genealogical and other types of research. Any program we develop must coordinate and support basic preservation, cataloging, digitizing and other essential activities that ensure improved public access and use.

Responding to these complex challenges is no easy task, but the American people expect and deserve no less. The National Archives serves as a hub for the nation's archives, and the NHPRC is a key part of that process. The Commission looks forward to serving as a true and effective Federal partner in preserving and facilitating access to the nation's historical records.

Thank you again for this opportunity to discuss the Commission with the Committee, and I look forward to answering your questions about the NHPRC and its work.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you, Ms. Williams, for your testimony.

Now we will go to the questioning period, and I will start with Archivist Ferriero.

As chairman of the Commission, can you please explain how the NHPRC is unique among all grantmaker supporting programs in history, archives, and the humanities?

Mr. FERRIERO. I think, having been a recipient of grants from both IMLS and NEH, I can speak to that, and now having chaired two meetings of the Commission. The NHPRC is focused on records, historical records. IMLS doesn't deal with archives; the L is for libraries, the M is for museums, and archives fall outside of their funding responsibilities. And NEH is focused on the humanities, not focused on records. And I think that is what distinguishes the NHPRC program.

Mr. CLAY. OK. Thanks for that response. Why should the Federal Government be interested in helping State and local archives and archivists preserve and make available non-Federal records?

Mr. FERRIERO. I think my message in my testimony is about telling the American story, and the ability to tell that American story is larger than Federal records. I have, under my purview, 10 billion items, but there are as many as that outside of my purview that are documents that tell the American story.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you for your response.

Ms. Williams, what specifically would an increased authorized funding level mean for the Commission and its future grant recipients?

Ms. WILLIAMS. Well, I think it would mean a couple of things, Mr. Chairman. I think it would help us to improve already existing programs and expand those. In particular, digitizing historical records really speaks to me and I think a lot of the rest of the citizenry in terms of direct access to these historical records. So I think we would certainly look to expand that. I think we would also look to use any increase to, in effect, enhance publishing projects to really draw on the challenge of working and producing online publications, and that is an investment that is a wise investment, again, for the American people that we are very eager to do. We do some of it now, but I think that there is some investment we could do with that.

I think in my testimony just now I also indicated to you we are very eager to take on specific types of records, topical types, records of servitude and emancipation. I think the Congress itself has asked us to see how we can accommodate that and move such a new program forward, and I think we are very eager at the Commission to take that on.

That is just a couple of examples that I can provide you with.

Mr. CLAY. And that inquiry's funding would help you assemble those records and enhance that effort, I am sure.

Ms. WILLIAMS. That is correct. One of the most effective programs we have is in dealing with the States and the State boards, and we are able to do some of that now, I think, to a great result, but increased funding will let us put more of that funding out there.

Mr. CLAY. And how do NHPRC grants translate into jobs?

Ms. WILLIAMS. Well, interestingly, I think a lot of the work that we support with historical records is very core work and it is very labor intensive, so, as a result, the bulk of the money that we award goes to either in publishing or in providing access and preserving goes toward basically jobs to carry out the work. This past year, for example, the Commission awarded about 120 grants, and of that about twice that amount in terms of jobs that are funded fully or in part from this, this is jobs for historians, archivists, those doing digitization work.

Mr. CLAY. Can you briefly describe the National Network of State Historic Advisory Boards and how that is crucial to the work of the NHPRC?

Ms. WILLIAMS. Certainly. The States boards, virtually every State has a board and the territories as well, and we at the Commission have been partnering, we feel, very effectively with those boards for over 30 years in trying to provide them with the means to do statewide planning, provide statewide services, and issue what we call re-grants. This is basically the States having the ability to, based on their assessments of needs in their States, not us dictating in Washington how to spend it, but based on what they know the needs are in their State, whether it is training, preservation, digitization, they then issue that money out to smaller modest and smaller repositories to take care of those needs. So, for us, that is actually a critical partnership in order to get the Federal money out into local communities.

Mr. CLAY. OK. Thank you for your response.

Representative Chaffetz.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Look, the National Archives and Records Administration has given hundreds of millions of dollars of the people's money in order to fulfill a most definite need and service, and I appreciate the work that you do. Just yesterday, Chief of Staff Rahm Emmanuel highlighted that the administration has proposed a 3-year freeze in non-security discretionary funding and signed off on a directive to have a target to identify at least 5 percent that can be cut out of the budget. What are you proposing to cut out of your budget and why would you support doubling of the grant program?

Mr. FERRIERO. I got those instructions yesterday afternoon. I have seen them for the first time. We will launch a process to identify the areas in our administration, in our agency where we are going to be making those cuts. The budget that is awaiting approval right now for fiscal year 2011 already is a \$10 million reduction in our budget. We will be analyzing every piece of our legislation.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I hope you can understand and appreciate why some of us look at this and say the proposal in the bill is to double the funding. You are already starting to cut some; the White House is starting to cut some; the Republicans, through YouCut, are trying to cut some, and that is why we have a bit of a disagreement.

We printed off the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration mission statement and I want to read the first part of that: "The National Archives and Records Administration serves American democracy by safeguarding and preserving the records of our government." I am struggling to find through the grant process

how you are justifying funding some of these programs that are not the records of our government, because we can't preserve everything. We can't be all things to all people.

Do you, Ms. Williams, have in your own mind a definition that separates the records of our government versus other projects that may feel like they are worthy of preservation?

Ms. WILLIAMS. You are asking for a definition that separates that or just my—

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Well, let me give you an example. Let me give you an example. Princeton University, a pretty wealthy institution, received \$122,848 to process 1,965 linear feet of records for the ACLU. I struggle to find the Federal nexus and the national imperative to help the ACLU preserve some of its records.

Ms. WILLIAMS. Well, maybe it would help if I can suggest how this process works, so you have a better understanding.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Let me ask real directly. My time is so short, I am sorry. Do you dismiss grant applicants based on—is there a litmus test that says “this is government, this isn't?” “If you are not government, sorry, you are going to scoot over and we are not going to consider it?” You don't dismiss anybody if they are outside government?

Mr. FERRIERO. Can I respond to that?

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Yes, sure. Sure.

Mr. FERRIERO. Congress established NHPRC in 1934 to deal with the non-Federal records. This was an effort to get the National Archives to exert some leadership in the country with non-Federal records. It is a grant program focused on States and local communities, universities, where there are historical records.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. You can see, when you look at the mission statement, of the overall, what you are trying to accomplish for the National Archives. Let me give you another example, and help me understand how you can justify in Wilmington, DE, Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, \$112,203 to process and make available the papers of an interior designer, William Pahlmann, a leader in department and specialty store design. Can you understand why, with \$13 trillion in debt, that a lot of people would look at that particular one and say, “that is what they are doing with our Federal dollars?” How do we justify that? Why is that a good program?

Ms. WILLIAMS. Well, if I could go back, again, to kind of the process, because we don't sit in Washington and simply, based on personal interest or anything else, make these sorts of decisions. The grant process is a rigorous one, the review process, so we get a pool of applicants every grant cycle from all across the country. We—

Mr. CHAFFETZ. And roughly how much money is requested overall? You give out \$10 million, so do you know offhand how much was requested?

Ms. WILLIAMS. This past year almost \$23 million was requested.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. So more than 45 percent of the people actually get a grant?

Ms. WILLIAMS. About 46 percent received a grant thus far this year.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I see my time has expired. I have more questions, though. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CLAY. Let me also note for the record that this is the process. This bill, H.R. 1556, will only authorize; the money will still have to be appropriated. This is the process that we use here, and I just want to note that for the record. Also, when you talk about records, be they Federal or private records, you know, as she mentioned, servitude and emancipation records I think are Federal records. The Freedmen's Bureau was set up after the Civil War. That was a Federal function. We sanctioned slavery in this country. That was a Federal function. And they had the great debates around slavery. I think it is consistent with us knowing our history that we try to preserve those records and try to make that knowledge available in a countrywide effort.

That is my editorial and I will stop here and recognize Mr. Jordan for questions.

Mr. JORDAN. I thank the chairman. I am not as familiar with the subject matter as the chairman and the ranking member, but I have a few questions. If I have enough time, I will yield that time to our ranking member.

Do both of you agree that we are at a point in our Nation with our government where we need to reduce spending and begin to get a handle on not just your program, but overall the budget? Would you both agree with that statement?

Mr. FERRIERO. I agree.

Ms. WILLIAMS. I do.

Mr. JORDAN. And you are familiar with the numbers that the ranking member has been talking about, \$1.4 trillion deficit, \$13 trillion national debt? Within a couple years, within 2 years, we will be paying more than \$1 billion a day just on interest just to service the debt, and that is even assuming that the interest rates stay low, which they are right now, relatively low. You are familiar with all those numbers?

Let me ask a question. I think Congressman Larson, when he was talking earlier, talked about the overall budgets for Archives, Humanities, and Library of Congress, close to \$900 million, is that right? \$874 million. And the charge from the administration yesterday was to begin to look at agencies, figure out where there is redundancy, potential waste, programs that aren't effective. In your judgment, is there any potential redundancy with those three budgets? Do you think maybe we can find some places where the Archives are doing some of the same things that the Library of Congress is doing, the Humanities is doing? Do we know that?

Mr. FERRIERO. I think the figure that was cited for the Archives was the entire Archives budget, not NHPRC, and the NHPRC piece is \$10 million. So you are comparing \$10 million NEH and IMLS.

Mr. JORDAN. I guess my question is broader. Just as an expert in this area, do you think that those three, the Archives, Library of Congress, and Department of Humanities, do you think there are—

Mr. FERRIERO. Duplication?

Mr. JORDAN. Yes.

Mr. FERRIERO. I don't think so.

Mr. JORDAN. You don't think so at all?

Mr. FERRIERO. I don't think so.

Mr. JORDAN. Do you think the taxpayers would accept that, just a general statement that you think no duplication?

Mr. FERRIERO. Yes.

Mr. JORDAN. OK.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Would the gentleman yield for a second?

Mr. JORDAN. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Part of the problem here is that one of the funding applications that happened in February 2009 was for the International Tennis Hall of Fame. How can we do that? And I recognize it doesn't come under your direct purview, but how can anybody look the American taxpayers in the eye and say, "I know you are struggling, but we have to get money to that International Tennis Hall of Fame?" That is what is so infuriating.

It is not because we are trying to do this for the civil rights movement. I would support that. But far from it. The Goodwill for a Computer Museum, for goodness sake, to make sure that we make an allocation for vintage computers? That is the difference. It is not the emotion and the need, the Federal nexus for the civil rights movement, it is about the International Tennis Foundation, the ACLU, Stanford University, Princeton. We are pulling people's money out of their pockets and we are giving it to somebody else. That is not the proper role of government to be doing this at the Federal level.

My apologies. I yield back.

Mr. JORDAN. No, no, I thank the gentleman. I think he makes a great point.

Here is, I guess, in kind of a broad context. You know, we always look at programs that are important and we understand that, but in tough economic times you have to make tough decisions. I think an example that comes to mind is our local school district. My wife is a part-time teacher there, local school district. Two months ago, front page of our local paper, they are talking about cutbacks they are going to have to make, and I read through the whole thing, and our kids go to that school, my wife and I went. We think it is a nice little local school.

But I read through it all, and once you are looking at what they are planning to do, the question that came to mind was, "well, why in the heck weren't we already doing this?" And that is what we are asking. Go through, make those decisions, look at where there potentially is redundancy, potentially waste, and make those tough calls. That is what we are asking. Not to increase the budget. All kinds of taxpayers, all kinds of families, all kinds of small business owners are getting by on last year's budget; in many cases something less than last year's budget.

Why in the heck can't government, in particular the Federal Government, do the same? And when you couple that with what the ranking member has pointed out, some of these grant recipients, and where some of these taxpayer dollars are going, I think just adds weight to our argument. That is the point we are making.

And, with that, I would yield back my remaining 20 seconds to the ranking member or yield back to the chairman. Thanks.

Mr. CLAY. OK. I thank the gentleman for yielding back. Just for the record, for my colleagues, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute for Museums and Library Services do

not duplicate any NHPRC programs. That is just for your knowledge. They do not duplicate those programs.

If there are no further questions——

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I would like another round, if I could. I have the right to do it twice, I believe.

Mr. CLAY. We have two other panels. I am sure you have enough ammunition——

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I would like to respond, I guess, to——

Mr. CLAY. Well, go ahead and respond.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Again, I am new to this process, I am a freshman here, but perhaps that perspective is a good one, because I still am struggling to understand why there is not a duplication, because I see that the imperative that you put out in your mission statement is the preservation of the records of our government, and consistently I see that—let me give you another example that happened through the NHPRC. The Norman Rockwell Museum at Stockbridge, MA, \$108,000 to process and make available approximately 725 cubic feet of material on American artist Norman Rockwell and 20th century American artists. I fail to understand why that wouldn't fall under Humanities or some other issue.

Let me give you another one. Stanford University, \$111,000-plus to arrange and describe unprocessed materials from 88 collections within its archived records, sound of spoken words and recordings of music.

We could keep going on and on, but that is the kind of stuff that is infuriating. In times of tough budgets, we have to find a way to consolidate and make some cuts. What has been on the table is a doubling of a budget. That is why I think you see so many people just fired up about this.

Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CLAY. You are welcome, Representative.

Norman Rockwell, the great American artist, probably deserves to have something preserved in our history.

Let me ask Ms. Williams if you would like to respond to anything you have heard.

Ms. WILLIAMS. Well, I think that part of our emphasis at the Commission is to invite applications for funding to support preservation and access to the Nation's historical records, wherever they reside, and a great variety, a great variety of records; and I think some of the members of the subcommittee have pointed out some that they find perhaps not worthy in their eyes.

I just want to reemphasize that these proposals all go through a very rigorous vetting process by peer reviewers, State boards, the full Commission, and staff, and that review process, I think, brings the heavy weight of analysis to these proposals and they are used extensively in making these sorts of decisions. So I think it is documenting for us at the Commission the American story, which goes beyond Federal records. That is the mission of the Commission. It has been its mission since it was created in 1934.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you so much.

At this point, this panel is excused and I would now like to invite our second panel of witnesses to come forward.

Mr. JORDAN. The previous witness talked about the review process and how extensive it was. Is it accurate to say, though, that,

in the end, the 15 members of the NHPRC board make the final decision? Is that an accurate statement? So, in the end, whatever process is in place, these 15 people decide who gets taxpayer dollars and who doesn't. Is that right?

Mr. CLAY. I would think that the board votes on—I am told by staff the Archivist has the final say.

Mr. JORDAN. But in the end it is those 15 people.

Mr. CLAY. I am sure it is recommended to the Archivist by the board.

Mr. JORDAN. Thank you.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you.

I now would like to introduce our second panel. Our first witness will be Mr. Michael Beschloss, a historian specializing in the U.S. Presidency and American politics. Mr. Beschloss is a regular commentator on the PBS News Hour and is the NBC News Presidential historian. He is the vice president of the Foundation for the National Archives.

Our next witness is Dr. Steven Hahn of the University of Pennsylvania. He is the co-editor of, "Freedom, A Documentary History of Emancipation," which benefited from NHPRC funding. He is the author of, "A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration," which received a Pulitzer Prize in History for 2004.

After Dr. Hahn, we will hear from Ms. Karen Jefferson, head of archives and special collections at Atlanta University Center. She was a founding member of the Archives and Archivists of Color Roundtable. In 2003, she received the University of Maryland's James Partridge Outstanding African-American Information Professional Award.

Our next witness will be Dr. Ira Berlin of the University of Maryland, here today representing the American Historical Association. He is the founding editor of the Freedmen and Southern Society Project, supported by the NHPRC. His first book, "Slaves Without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South," won the best First Book Prize awarded by the National Historical Society.

And our last witness on this panel will be Dr. Pete Daniel, retired curator at the National Museum of American History, and here today representing the Organization of American Historians, of which he is a past president. He is the author of, "Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950's," which won the Elliott Rudwick Prize.

I thank all of our witnesses for appearing today and look forward to their testimony.

It is the policy of the subcommittee to swear in all witnesses before they testify. Would you all please stand and raise your right hands?

[Witnesses sworn.]

Mr. CLAY. Thank you. You may be seated.

Let the record reflect that the witnesses answered in the affirmative, and I ask that each of the witnesses now give a brief summary of their testimony, and please limit your summary to 5 minutes. Your complete written statement will be included in the hearing today.

Mr. Beschloss, please begin with your opening statement.

STATEMENTS OF MICHAEL R. BESCHLOSS, PRESIDENTIAL HISTORIAN, VICE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES; DR. STEVEN HAHN, ROY F. AND JEANNETTE P. NICHOLS PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA; KAREN JEFFERSON, HEAD OF ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER; DR. IRA BERLIN, DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, REPRESENTING THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION; AND DR. PETE DANIEL, CURATOR, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY, RETIRED, REPRESENTING THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL R. BESCHLOSS

Mr. BESCHLOSS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to do better than the 5. Thank you so much for inviting me and my colleagues here this afternoon. Both as a historian and also as vice president of the Foundation for the National Archives, I am very glad you are holding this hearing.

As one who appreciates history, Mr. Chairman, you know that our founders devoutly hoped to make this country different from England and the other monarchies of Europe. One way they wanted us to be different was the way we Americans treat our history. As you know, the kings and queens of Europe were in favor of history, but only official history. Documents and other evidence that showed their mistakes were suppressed or destroyed.

And when the founders began to work on what the United States should be, they knew all of that and, unlike the Europeans, they felt that, for a country's political system, history should be treated not as a dangerous threat to be harnessed, but as a mighty force that could make the country better. Our early leaders felt that only if we knew our full history could we really know how and why our past leaders and citizens succeeded, and also how and why they failed.

And I think you can say that from the beginning those founders practiced what they preached. If you go back to the closed door debates of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, you will find the most detailed accounts of what they said and did; there are letters, there are transcripts, there are diaries, there are notes. Over two centuries later, we can hear those actual voices, and they speak to us. We are using those records even still to argue about those constitutional debates and how our society in 2010 compares to the early expectations.

I think it is not too much to say that if the founders came back today, they would love the fact that we Americans have created an NHPRC. I think they would feel there is no more patriotic act than creating historical records, preserving them, and then making them available as quickly as possible to the widest number of Americans. And I think they would also love the fact that the NHPRC is not just concerned with the great and famous; it has shown itself just as eager to preserve and publish the letters of Swedish immigrants,

for instance, in my home State of Illinois, as the letters of President John Adams and his cabinet.

I think the NHPRC's work is now more important than it ever has been. Unlike earlier generations of Americans, we in 2010 don't tend to write many letters or diaries, and not too many of us pour our innermost thoughts and emotions into an email. So I think it couldn't be more vital for the NHPRC to do everything it can to encourage the creation of some kind of detailed historical record.

Let me offer a quick example from my own professional experience. I have been working since 1994 on several books in which I transcribe, edit, and try to explain the tapes that President Lyndon Johnson made of 10,000 of his private conversations on the telephone in the Oval Office and elsewhere while he was President. Until the Johnson tapes began to be opened in 1994, almost no one knew that LBJ had secretly taped people he talked to without their knowledge, including his wife, by the way, which I would not recommend for any marriage, but she took it with some good humor. In retrospect, it is probably terrible that Johnson didn't tell his friends that he was taping them, but it is an inexhaustible treasure for the American people.

Some of President Johnson's language on those tapes, I am afraid, is not fit for me to repeat in this hearing, but one lesson which is on them, which I will close with, is something I don't think the chairman or any member of this subcommittee will disagree with, and that is this: Presidents should listen to Members of Congress. Not a bad thought. May 1964, LBJ was talking to his old mentor, Senator Richard Russell of Georgia, about whether to go to war in Vietnam. Russell was Mr. Defense, but thought Vietnam was a loser. And on these tapes he tells Johnson, "Vietnam is a tragic situation; it is just one of those places where you can't win. It will be the most expensive venture this country ever went into." He was absolutely right.

How different the history of our country could have been had LBJ not rejected Russell's wise advice. I think that one conversation between a single President and a single powerful Senator is just one of the cautionary lessons that are crucial, I think, for later American Presidents and also for all of us citizens. And I think if it weren't for the kind of work so well championed by the NHPRC, we wouldn't even know that conversation took place.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Beschloss follows:]

**Testimony of
Michael Beschloss
Historian and Vice President, Foundation for the National Archives
Washington, D.C.**

**Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
"Strengthening the National Historical Publications and Records
Commission."
June 9, 2010**

Our Founders hoped to make this country different from England and the other monarchies of Europe. One way they wanted us to be different was the way we treat our history. The kings and queens of Europe were in favor of history, but only an official history. Documents and other evidence that showed their mistakes were suppressed or destroyed. They hired official historians to use this sanitized record to portray the past performance of their governments as a glorious parade of decisions perfectly made – no mistakes, no room for improvement.

That approach was great for the vanity of the kings and queens, but it wasn't really history. And it didn't do much to keep future monarchs from making mistakes similar to theirs, because their subjects were prevented from knowing about those mistakes.

The Founders of the United States knew all of that. Unlike the Europeans, they felt that for a country's political system, history should be treated not as a dangerous threat to be harnessed but as a mighty force that could make their country greater. Our early leaders felt that only if we knew our full history could we really know how and why our past leaders and citizens succeeded -- and how and why they failed.

They knew that the only way you could do that was to encourage American leaders and citizens to make a full, real-time documentary record of their daily decision-making and their daily lives. They venerated the true, unexpurgated primary source -- not some official history written by some bought court historian.

From the beginning, those Founders practiced what they preached. Go back to the closed-door debates of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and you will find the most detailed accounts of what they said and did. There are letters, transcripts, diaries and notes. Over two centuries later, we can hear those actual voices. And they speak to us. 223 years later, we Americans are still using those records to argue about those Constitutional debates -- and about how our society in 2010 compares to the luminous expectations expressed in that crowded hall in early Philadelphia.

It is not too much to say that if the Founders came back today, they would love the fact that we Americans have created an NHPRC. They would feel that there is no more patriotic act than creating historical records, preserving them and then making them available as quickly as possible to the widest number of Americans so that we can all

learn from both the shortcomings and the triumphs of our tumultuous past. And the Founders would also love the fact that, in contrast to the old regimes of Europe, the NHRPC is not just concerned with the great and famous. It has shown itself just as eager to preserve and publish the letters of Swedish immigrants in my home state of Illinois as the letters of President John Adams and his Cabinet.

In this year of 2010, the work of the NHRPC is more important than ever. Unlike earlier generations of Americans, we don't write many letters or diaries. And not too many of us pour our innermost thoughts and emotions into an e-mail. Thus it couldn't be more vital for the NHRPC to be doing everything it can to encourage the creation of some kind of detailed historical record in what all too often seems to be an age of disposable history.

Let me offer one quick example from my own professional experience on the importance of the primary source. I have been working since 1994 on several books in which I transcribe, edit and try to explain the tapes that President Lyndon Johnson made of ten thousand of his private conversations on the telephone and in the Oval Office from 1963 to 1969.

Until those tapes began to be opened in 1994, almost no one knew that LBJ had secretly taped people he talked to without their knowledge. In retrospect, it was probably terrible that he didn't tell his friends and colleagues that their confidential comments were being captured for history, but for us historians and the American people, these tapes are an inexhaustible treasure.

Certainly LBJ wrote letters and left official memos, but if you want to understand what President Johnson did and why, you want to hear his voice in private. Some of LBJ's language on those tapes is not fit for me to repeat in this hearing. But in those tapes are about a million lessons for all of us Americans and our leaders to think about. One such lesson – which I'll close with – is one I don't think any member of this subcommittee will disagree with. And that is this: Presidents should listen to Members of Congress.

In May 1964, LBJ was talking to his old mentor, Senator Richard Russell of Georgia, about whether he should go to war in Vietnam. Russell was known as Mr. Defense, but he thought the Vietnam War was a loser. On these tapes, he tells Johnson, "[Vietnam] is a tragic situation. It's just one of those places where you can't win. . . . It'll be the most expensive venture this country ever went into."

How different the history of our country would have been had LBJ not rejected Russell's wise advice. Just like the records of the Constitutional Convention, this one conversation between one President and one powerful Senator should speak to all of us. It's a crucial, cautionary lesson for later Presidents and later American citizens. Listen to the wisdom of Congress. Be utterly careful before you send young Americans into harm's way. If it weren't for the kind of the work so well done by the NHRPC, we wouldn't even know that such a conversation between Johnson and Russell ever took place.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you, Mr. Beschloss, for that brief history lesson. And I am so glad you sanitized President Johnson's language.
Dr. Hahn, you are up.

STATEMENT OF DR. STEVEN HAHN

Dr. HAHN. Thank you. Chairman Clay, Ranking Member Chaffetz, Congressman Jordan, my name is Steven Hahn and I am a professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania, and I am very pleased to have the opportunity of coming before this committee today to speak in support of the authorization of an increased funding for the NHPRC.

I have been, as Chairman Clay suggested, a direct beneficiary of the resources that the NHPRC has made available, and I have seen the many ways in which projects that the Commission has supported benefit historical learning and understanding in the United States.

Early in my career, I worked as an associate editor at the Freedom History Project at the University of Maryland, the project that had been supported by the NHPRC. At the time, I was a newly minted Ph.D. and very excited about the work that the Freedom History Project was doing: assembling a multi-volume documentary history of slave emancipation in the United States using the records deposited at the National Archives.

Most editorial projects, then and since, have focused on very well known, nationally significant and powerful figures and institutions. The Freedom History Project, by contrast, was uncovering the experiences of both the powerful and powerless, of policymakers and bureaucrats, of ordinary soldiers and slaves who were bringing about the destruction of slavery and the construction of a free society in the largest emancipation the world had ever seen. And, I might add, also the best documented one.

Owing to the documents that I had the opportunity to read, compile, and annotate during my year as an associate editor on the Project, I became increasingly interested in African-American politics in the rural south. The material that I was using raised intriguing questions both about what former slaves were doing in their first years of freedom and about where their sensibilities and practices came from.

When I left the Project to take up a post in the History Department at the University of California-San Diego, I decided to pursue some of the questions and to write a book about what I found. That book, "A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration," which I began to formulate while I was working at the Freedom History Project, was eventually published by Harvard University Press and was awarded the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in History.

Now, over the years that the NHPRC has supported the Freedom History Project, numerous historians like myself have had the opportunity to find work in this rich intellectual environment, to develop our skills as researchers and writers, and subsequently, in no small measure, owing to our experience at the Freedom History Project, have been hired into full-time positions at a range of colleges and universities and have produced scholarship of genuine importance. Former editors now hold professorships at 15 different

institutions of higher education across the United States; they have won major prizes for their work; they have become MacArthur Foundation fellows; they have served on State humanities councils; and they have been elected, as Professors Berlin and Daniel have, president of the Organization of American Historians.

But the impact of the NHPRC goes well beyond academic employment and published scholarship. It nourishes the educations and intellectual appetites of students and other learners at all levels of American society. In the time since I worked at the Freedom History Project, I have used the Project documents and essays in my lecture courses and seminars at the University of Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

I have also brought them into many public school teacher workshops I have participated in in those years. The teachers, in turn, have brought the documents and other related materials into their junior and senior high school classrooms, and have stimulated interest in our past and an exciting sense of discovery among their students. And I used the Project materials extensively when I taught college level courses for economically disadvantaged adults in North Chicago, in what is known as the Odyssey Program, earlier in the past decade.

The reach of the NHPRC has been enormous and the benefits that have derived from its resources are greater still. At a time when the connections between past and present are very much a part of public consciousness and the political discourse, we need to promote the type of work that can make the past and our many pasts come alive for all Americans. The NHPRC has already made an invaluable contribution toward that end, and I would urge you to authorize the level of funding that will allow the Commission not only to continue, but also to expand its important undertakings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I would be happy to answer any of your questions.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Hahn follows:]

TESTIMONY DELIVERED AT “STRENGTHENING
THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND
RECORDS COMMISSION”
INFORMATION POLICY, CENSUS, AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES SUBCOMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
JUNE 9, 2010

Steven Hahn
University of Pennsylvania

Chairman Clay, Ranking Member McHenry, and Members of the Subcommittee. My name is Steven Hahn, the Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, and I am very pleased to have the opportunity of coming before this committee to speak in support of the reauthorization of, and increased funding for, the NHPRC. I have been a direct beneficiary of the resources that the NHPRC has made available, and I have seen the many ways in which the projects the Commission supports benefit historical learning and understanding in the United States.

Early in my career, I worked as an associate editor at the Freedom History Project (FHP) at the University of Maryland. At the time, I was a newly minted Ph.D. from Yale University, a

scholar of Southern and African-American history, and was very excited about the work that the FHP was doing: assembling a multi-volume documentary history of slave emancipation in the United States using the records deposited at the National Archives. Most editorial projects, then and since, have focused on very well-known, nationally significant, and powerful figures and institutions. They published the papers of presidents, senators, cabinet members, military leaders, and business magnates. The FHP, by contrast, was uncovering the experiences of both the powerful and powerless, of policy-makers and bureaucrats, of ordinary soldiers and slaves who were bringing about the destruction of slavery and the construction of a free society in the largest emancipation the world has ever seen (not to mention the best documented one). Project editors read over two million documents organized in several different record groups in order to distill several large, highly selective, volumes covering the Civil War and early Reconstruction years. Five of those volumes have now been published.

The work of the FHP has been recognized not only for its scholarly excellence and imagination but also for transforming our perspectives on the Civil War era. Project volumes have won numerous awards, have been read by almost every scholar who has a serious interest in the period, and are widely cited in the scholarly literature. Equally impressive, many of the historians who have worked on the project have gone on to make major scholarly contributions of their own. Owing to the documents I had an opportunity to read, compile, and annotate during my year as an associate editor on the project, I became increasingly interested in African American politics in the rural South. The material raised intriguing questions both about what former slaves were doing in their first years of freedom and about where their sensibilities and practices came from. When I left the project to take up a post in the History Department at the University of California, San Diego, I decided to pursue some of these questions and to write a

book about what I found. That book, *A Nation under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*, which I began to formulate while working on the FHP, was eventually published by Harvard University Press and awarded the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in History.

Over the years that the NHPRC has supported the FHP, numerous historians like myself have had the opportunity to find work in this rich intellectual environment, to develop our skills as researchers and writers, and subsequently, in no small measure due to our experience at the FHP, have been hired into full time positions at a range of colleges and universities and have produced scholarship of genuine importance. Former editors now have endowed chairs, full professorships, associate professorships, and assistant professorships at fifteen (15) different institutions across the United States including: Columbia University, the University of Maryland, the University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University, the University of Iowa, the University of Chicago, Duke University, Catholic University, and Penn State University (see Appendix). They have also won Pulitzer Prizes, Bancroft Prizes, and other major prizes for their work; have become MacArthur Foundation Fellows, have served on state humanities councils, and have been elected president of the Organization of American Historians. Which is to say that over the past several decades, when the academic job market has generally been anemic and discouraging to young scholars, the NHPRC has not only helped to provide employment for talented historians who otherwise might have been left without it (the great bulk of NHPRC grant money is spent on salaries), but has also helped launch the distinguished careers of historians who were just starting out.

But the impact of NHPRC goes well beyond academic employment and published scholarship. It nourishes the educations and intellectual appetites of students and other learners

at all levels of American society. In the time since I worked at the FHP, I have used the project documents and essays in a variety of classroom settings. I have assigned project volumes – some of which have been published in abbreviated form – to my lecture courses and seminars at the University of Pennsylvania (as well as at other institutions of higher education at which I have taught). I have brought project documents and essays into public school teacher workshops that I have been involved with for the past twenty-five years in San Diego (CA), Los Angeles (CA), Rockford (IL), Orlando (FL), Louisville (Ky), and Dunlap (TN); the teachers, in turn, have brought the documents and other related materials into their junior and senior high school classes and have stimulated interest in our past and an exciting sense of discovery among their students. And I used project materials extensively when I taught college-level courses for economically disadvantaged adults in north Chicago, in what is known as the Odyssey Program, earlier in the past decade.

The reach of the NHPRC has been enormous and the benefits that have been derived from its resources are greater still. The FHP is only one indication of the pathbreaking directions that may be taken – and could not possibly be taken without, at least, the level of support that the NHPRC can provide. At a time when the connections between past and present are very much a part of the public consciousness and the political discourse, we need to promote the type of work that can make the past – and our many pasts – come alive for all Americans. The NHPRC has already made an invaluable contribution toward that end, and I would urge you to authorize the level of funding that will allow the Commission not only to continue, but also to expand its important undertakings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer your questions.

Appendix

Numbers and Careers of Former Freedom History

Project Editors and NHPRC Fellows

Freedom History Project Former Editors

Ira Berlin, Professor of History, University of Maryland, Past President of the Organization of American Historians, Bancroft Prize
 Francine C. Cary, President of Washington D.C. Humanities Council and Florida Humanities Council
 Wayne K. Durrill, Professor of History, University of Cincinnati
 Barbara Jeanne Fields, Professor of History, Columbia University, MacArthur Foundation Fellow
 Thavolia Glymph, Associate Professor of African and African-American Studies and History, Duke University
 Steven Hahn, Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania, Pulitzer Prize in History, Bancroft Prize
 Rene Hayden, Independent Scholar
 Anthony E. Kaye, Associate Professor of History, Pennsylvania State University
 Lawrence T. McDonnell, Lecturer, Iowa State University
 Kate Masur, Assistant Professor of History, Northwestern University
 Susan E. O'Donovan, Assistant Professor of History, University of Memphis
 Joseph P. Reidy, Professor of History and Associate Provost, Howard University
 John C. Rodrigue, Lawrence and Theresa Salameo Professor of History, Stone Hill College

Julie Saville, Associate Professor of History, University of Chicago

Freedom History Project Former NHPRC Fellows

Michael Honey, Fred T. and Dorothy G. Haley Professor of the Humanities, University
of Washington, President of the Labor and Working-Class History Association

Leslie Schwalm, Professor of History, University of Iowa

Stephen A. West, Associate Professor of History, Catholic University

Mr. CLAY. Thank you for your testimony, Dr. Hahn, and thank you for your important work in preserving American history.

Ms. Jefferson, you are recognized for 5 minutes.

STATEMENT OF KAREN JEFFERSON

Ms. JEFFERSON. Chairman Clay and members of the subcommittee, thank you for allowing me to testify to you today about the NHPRC. I am representing my library, who has benefited from the support of NHPRC through our State Humanities Board, and I am going to talk about how we benefited in that way.

First of all, I want to say that the archival profession greatly is appreciative of the work of the NHPRC, and that extends to our State Records Historical Advisory Boards that impacts us the most, and I am going to talk about Georgia's Historical Records Advisory Board and the work that it does and how it benefits us directly.

First of all, we have a wonderful directory, GHRAB is what we call our historical board, and this directory is an online directory of over 600 different organizations in the State of Georgia so that we know who we are, who is collecting the history, who is preserving the history; and also so that the citizens, our educators, our students, and our researchers will know how to find out where the records are in Georgia.

The grants program, of course, or the re-grants program that is done by GHRAB through funding from NHPRC has been very helpful. Our institution has received a small grant, as has our sister institution, Spelman College Archives, to help us do our work. A lot of those awards are very small, they are \$2,000 to maybe \$15,000, but they are vital to the work that we do. They are covering programs that deal with startup funds to help you begin your archives, to help you improve the work that your archives is doing.

In particular, it funds educational opportunities. And, as archivists, we have to stay abreast of what are the best practices and the standards so that we can preserve the records, and these educational opportunities through our State Historical Advisory Boards are brought to the State and made more accessible, and they are less expensive because we don't have to travel and spend extra money to go outside to learn about changes and developments that we should use in our work.

This is particularly important because we are now doing a lot of workshops related to managing electronic records and digitizing historical materials, and we are also doing planning around disaster preparedness, because we have to be prepared to recover from when we have disasters.

But, in particular, I want to mention the work that we are doing today related to managing electronic records because even today, at this hearing, all of the testimonies that we have done have been prepared by computers. The hearing that we are having right now is being recorded electronically, and the technology is changing very quickly.

How are we going to make sure that the records that we are generating today, like the record we are having right now, is going to be accessible to the future? We have to make sure that the practitioners have the training to do it, that we keep abreast of being able to care for these kinds of historical records; they are no longer

just going to be paper. Also, our citizens are increasingly wanting only access to the records electronically, so they no longer are simply wanting to look at the paper document; they want to be able to search it, they want to be able to see it online.

I also want to mention what is important for us is the job opportunities that these grant projects fund, and I want to talk about how they actually help new archivists come into the field, because when you finish your program as in a master's program of archival administration, you don't always have the experience that you need to get a job, and these grant programs are where we hire folks and they have an opportunity to work for 1 to 3 years and get the experience so that, when they do apply for professional jobs, that they will have experience. Entry level positions often require that you have 1 to 3 years of experience. Where will you get it?

These programs also open up the career opportunity for archives and records management to students, so we hire a lot of students in these grant programs. And I know from my institution right now we have hired four students who have gone on to get their professional degrees. Two are in school right now; one is going to pursue the degree in the fall; and we have another who just completed their work and is now working at the National Archives. So this is the kind of programs that put people to work, so I think it is very important.

I just want to say that what happens in Georgia is happening across the country in different SHRABs, as we call them, and I don't think that we can devalue or should devalue the work that is being done in terms of keeping our historical records available.

I want to say that if we want to have an informed citizenry, if we want our citizens to be proud Americans and understand what it means to be Americans, they have to have access to the records; they have to know that story. So I think that what we do is very important to what we will do in the future. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Jefferson follows:]

TESTIMONY OF

KAREN L. JEFFERSON, RECORDS MANAGER,

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER, ROBERT W. WOODRUFF LIBRARY

BEFORE THE

INFORMATION POLICY, CENSUS AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

ON

“STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL

PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION”

JUNE 9, 2010

Chairman William Lacy Clay, Ranking Minority Member Patrick McHenry, and Members of the Subcommittee, I am Karen Jefferson, Records Manager at the Atlanta University Center, Robert W. Woodruff Library, in Atlanta, Georgia. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you to discuss "Strengthening the National Historical Publications and Records Commission."

The Woodruff Library is an independent non-profit library that provides the information needs of four historically black colleges in Atlanta, GA – Clark Atlanta University, The Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College, and Spelman College. These four institutions have a combined student population of over 8,700 undergraduate and graduate students and over 700 faculty members.

The Woodruff Library includes an Archives Research Center with collections totaling over 7,000 linear feet including papers of individuals and families, and records of organizations and professional associations that document Black history and culture with a particular focus on the Southeastern United States. In addition, the Archives has institutional records documenting the history of the Atlanta University Center colleges and universities, and the contributions they have made to education since their inception in the 1860s.

You are probably most familiar with our library as the custodian for the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection that was acquired in 2006. The collection has been arranged, described, and digitized and is now available for research use. Our Archives is also the repository for the mayoral records of Maynard Jackson (1938 - 2003), who served as Mayor of Atlanta, GA for three terms in 1974-1982 and 1990-1994. Maynard Jackson was the first African American mayor of Atlanta, and was the youngest mayor and first African American mayor of a major Southern city.

I am speaking to you today as an archivist with 30 years experience in the profession. Before my tenure at the Woodruff Library, I worked at Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Duke University Libraries John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture. Helping to collect, preserve, and make accessible historical materials documenting American history is my passion for I know that the work I do as an archivist benefits our community and our nation today; and will benefit future generations far beyond my lifetime.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NHPRC

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) plays a vital role in the preservation of and access to America's historical heritage. NHPRC is among the national leadership that helps ensure that our nation's treasures are properly cared for and made accessible to the public. NHPRC provides leadership by helping to identify needs, establish national agendas, and provide support and funding to our

cultural and historical institutions to address the challenges in preserving our nation's history and expanding access to historical documentation to reach all our citizens.

NHPRC's grant program supports numerous projects to preserve and make accessible historical documentation of national significance, including the publications and preservation microfilming of papers of American icons such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Frederick Douglass, Thomas Edison and Susan B. Anthony, Eleanor Roosevelt, Margaret Sanger, Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois.

As important, NHPRC has established statewide networks that can identify and support institutions that have responsibility to care for historical documentation of local and regional significance. NHPRC's statewide entities include the State Historical Records Coordinators, the Council of State Archivists, and the State Historical Records Advisory Boards.

I will focus my remarks on the work of the State Records Historical Advisory Boards – affectionately known as SHRABs. And by example, I will more specifically talk about GHRAB, the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board and its work from which my institution and so many others in the State of Georgia have directly benefited.

GHRAB's mission is to:

- promote the educational use of Georgia's documentary heritage by all its citizens,
- evaluate and improve the condition of records,
- encourage statewide planning for preservation and access to Georgia's historical records,
- and advise the Secretary of State and the Georgia Archives on issues concerning records.

In meeting this mission, GHRAB maintains the *Directory of Historical and Cultural Organizations*. This online directory provides information on over 600 institutions statewide. It is a primary networking tool for archivists in Georgia. Also, educators, students, researchers, and the general public - locally, nationally and internationally- can easily use the directory to identify historical resources in Georgia.

GHRAB also manages a grants program that has a significant impact on the development of the archival enterprise within the State. The grants program has supported projects for arrangement, description, preservation, microfilming, digitization, staff training, planning, exhibits, improvement of storage facilities, and the establishment and development of records management and archival programs. In working with cultural and historical institutions, GHRAB is able to identify crucial, yet basic projects and provide funding for which few if any other funders would give support. GHRAB grant awards are generally between \$2,000 and \$15,000. Although small by some standards, these awards have been vital for many small and mid-size institutions, who

may not have the resources to prepare proposals that compete successfully with more established and larger institutions.

The Woodruff Library received one of these small awards for \$4,400. With these funds we were able to hire student workers and purchase supplies to inventory and properly house selected holdings that includes art, photographs, 19th century newspapers, maps; and posters documenting historical cultural events, national and local electoral campaigns, and civil rights activities. This basic inventory unearthed historical treasures that were previously inaccessible. Also our sister institution, the Spelman College Archives, received a grant award for \$9,000 for preservation microfilming of the correspondence and diaries of the colleges' founders.

GHRAB funding supports educational opportunities within the State, and this training is thereby more accessible to and less expensive for Georgians. Our staff has participated in many of these workshops. This training increases staff knowledge and skills and keeps staff abreast of best practices and standards in caring for historical materials. There have been workshops on preservation, arrangement and description, records management, disaster planning, managing electronic records and digitizing historical materials. Such training opportunities have become even more critical as computer technologies are more fully integrated into the creation of and access to historical records.

Today the majority of records being created are born digital and our citizens increasingly expect to access information electronically. Archival institutions have the responsibility to ensure that these electronic records are preserved and accessible for today and for the future. This requires the ability to re-format paper and analog audiovisual materials to digital formats; and to ensure that information captured digitally is accessible as computer technologies change. Therefore it is essential that archival professionals are knowledgeable and skilled to meet these opportunities, challenges and demands related to electronic records. Through GHRAB funding, Georgians have had several opportunities to participate in training in digitization of historical materials and managing electronic records.

One of the most effective programs supported by GHRAB was the Circuit Rider Archivist Program that was implemented from 2005-2008. Through this program a professional archivist provided onsite consultation to over 100 organizations in 74 counties across Georgia. This program brought expertise to small, mid-size, and newly developing institutions that may not have had the resources to hire a professional consultant. These onsite consultations provided guidance for institutions to develop plans to improve their archival programs in areas such as strategic planning, effective policies and procedures, inventorying and preparing collections for research access, implementing preservation measures for the long-term care of collections, and creating disaster preparedness plans.

GHRAB grant funds not only support our efforts to care for and make accessible our historical heritage, this funding also provides job opportunities. Archival work is labor

intensive, and often a significant portion of the budget in grant-funded projects is devoted to staff salaries and wages. In the archival field, grant-funded projects often provide jobs for recent graduates of archival programs. These jobs provide graduates with work experience that enhances their ability to compete for full-time employment that often requires a minimum of one to three years work experience. My library recently transitioned a project archivist to a full-time staff position. Also, grant-funded projects provide opportunities for students and others to work in archives, exposing them to the archival field as a career option, and leading some to pursue educational programs to become professional archivists. Currently there are four students pursuing graduate studies in archival management that were hired through grant-funded projects at our library.

CONCLUSION

These examples of the profound impact that GHRAB has made on local cultural and historical institutions in the preservation of and access to our historical legacy is replicated by the other SHRABs throughout the nation. GHRAB's budget is provided through grants from the NHPRC and appropriations from the State of Georgia. GHRAB has only received \$2.4 million over the life of its 17 years of operation (1993-2010). In 2010 and 2011, the State is providing no financial support for GHRAB. Should NHPRC's federal appropriations decline, there will be little to no funding for SHRAB's and the important work that GHRAB is doing in preservation and access of historical materials may come to an end.

Our cultural and historical institutions have a responsibility and an obligation to insure that the American experience and historical legacy is documented, preserved and made accessible to U.S. citizens and the global community. Despite the economic challenges of today, we cannot devalue the importance of this responsibility to our society. NHPRC has a proven record of success. And through its network of state boards, NHPRC exemplifies effective partnership between federal and state governments that successfully impacts local communities. I urge you to not only continue but increase appropriations for NHPRC so that the progress that has been made in preserving the record of the great American experience in democracy will be available for today, and for future generations.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of the Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library, I thank you for this opportunity to speak. NHPRC is important, the funding that you can allocate will go a very long way to preserve and cherish the histories of the people of the United States of America.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you so much, Ms. Jefferson.
Dr. Berlin, you may proceed for 5 minutes.

STATEMENT OF DR. IRA BERLIN

Dr. BERLIN. Chairman Clay, Ranking Member Chaffetz, Westmoreland, Jordan, my name is Ira Berlin. I teach at the University of Maryland, where I am a professor of history and also a university professor. I am also a member of the American Historical Association, the oldest and largest organization of American historians, and I am here today representing that organization.

I am most pleased to have the opportunity to testify before this committee on the reauthorization of the NHPRC with a budget of \$20 million and to urge an increase in the funding of that agency even at this moment, because I believe that it is critical to the American people's understanding of the past, which in turn is essential to our democracy. I can think of nothing which is more essential at this particular moment.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission is the seed bed of contemporary understandings of American history. During the last 60 or more years, the NHPRC, more than any other single entity, governmental or private—and I should say I have sat on the National Council of the National NEH—has made it possible for the American people to know their history, and that history speaks to the entirety of the American experience; workers as well as bosses, slaves as well as slaveholders, women as well as men, even tennis players, I presume, in short, we have built and protected and to defend our great republic precisely those people.

You have already heard accountings of the extraordinary records of the NHPRC in creating archival collections in every State and territory in the United States, and the magnificent documentary volumes, the microfilms, the CDs these have spawned. We are talking literally of miles of records and thousands of volumes. Rather than repeat that accounting, I would like to talk a little bit about my own experience as the founding director of the Freedmen and Southern Society project, that collaborative study of the transit of black people from slavery to freedom, the beginning of the Civil War in 1861 to the beginning of radical reconstruction in 1867, which has been published in a multi-volume edition under the title of Freedom.

We are talking of a revolutionary moment, a people who go from being property, something like the chair I am sitting on, to being men and women, free men and women, and then soldiers in the world's most powerful army, and then citizens of this great republic, and then officeholders in that great republic. That happens in 6 years. And if that happens in 6 years, imagine what could happen in 10 years; imagine what could happen in a lifetime. People get a sense that they can transform the world. It seems to me that this is essential to being a citizen of a democracy, particularly this democracy.

In transforming this understanding of emancipation and putting slaves at the very center of this story, the Freedom volumes have been called this generation's most significant encounter with the American past, what the Washington Post declared one of the great monuments to contemporary scholarship. Of course, I am very

proud of this, but I am even more proud of seeing the Freedmen and Southern Society project become a school for young scholars who are now teaching in our great universities, in our community colleges, in our high schools. Of those people, winning prizes and those prize-winning projects being passed on to their students.

It is not simply a matter of creating new careers and creating jobs, but the Freedmen and Southern Society project and the work that is created by that project, which is founded on those NHPRC grants, have found their way into high schools and schools everywhere; they have taught hundreds and thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of students; they have given people a new sense of the American past, a sense of the American past where, in the past, people have controlled their own destiny, and in some ways that empowers them to believe that they themselves can control their own destiny. That is what democracy is all about and that is what history should do, and that is what the NHPRC has done.

Thank you so much.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Berlin follows:]

**Testimony before the Information Policy, Census, and
National Archives Sub-Committee of the Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform of the House of Representatives of the U. S.
Congress, 9 June 2010 by Ira Berlin**

Chairman Clay, Ranking Member McHenry, and Members of the Subcommittee. My name is Ira Berlin and I teach history at the University of Maryland, where I am Professor of History and Distinguished University Professor. Today, I am presenting on behalf of the American Historical Association, the oldest the largest organization of American Historians. I am most pleased to have the opportunity to testify in support of the reauthorization of the NHPRC with a budget of \$20 million and urge an increase funding for an agency that I believe is critical to the American people's understanding of their past.

The National Historical Publication and Records Commission is the seedbed of contemporary understandings of American history. During the last sixty years, the NHPRC, more than any other single entity--governmental or private--has preserved and published the essential records that have made it possible for the American people to know their history. This history speaks to the entirety of the American experience, workers as well as bosses, slaves as

well as slaveholders, women as well as men--in short, the people who built, protected, and defended our great Republic.

You have already heard accountings the extraordinary record of the NHPRC in creating archival collections in every state and territory of the United States and magnificent documentary volumes, microfilms, and CDs these collections have spawned. Rather than repeat that accounting, I would like to speak to my own experience as the founding director of the Freedmen and Southern Society Project, a collaborative study of the transit of black people from slavery to freedom between the beginning of the Civil War in 1861 and the beginning of Radical Reconstruction in 1867, which has published the multi-volume documentary history of emancipation under the title Freedom.

Transforming our understanding of emancipation by putting slaves themselves at the center of the story freedom's arrival, the Freedom volumes have won numerous plaudits. The New York Times called it "this generations most significant encounter with the American past" and the Washington Post declared "one of the great monuments of contemporary Civil War scholarship. As you can imagine, I

am rightly proud of that praise, but I am even more pleased with the FSSP's other accomplishments.

First among these, the FSSP has served as a school for historians of the Civil War. Young scholars fresh from graduate school, who now occupy a dominate place in the major history departments across the nation--among them University of Chicago, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern, Duke, Howard, Penn State universities--received their start on the Project. In addition to editing the Freedom volumes, their own work--which draws upon the collections created by the FSSP--has won them every major prize for historical studies, including the Pulitzer, Bancroft, Lincoln and Douglass prizes, as well as all of the major awards given by the American Historical Association and the Organization of American History. Some of these alums of the FSSP now have students of their own, who have also written prize-winning books, and assumed positions in major universities. The FSSP has been a fount of scholarship and at the base of that fount in the NHPRC.

More than founding the careers of young scholars, those same scholars have taught tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of students, providing those with new understanding of Civil War history. Since the FSSP stresses

documents those documents--especially the letters by slaves--become a means of teaching students how to read documents, a skill which of courses reaches beyond the study of the past. Speaking about his own students, a teacher in Mississippi Community College, put the case like this: "Whether one needs the intensive documentation of a professional historian, a point of reference for future research, or merely a small quotation to illustrate a point in a lecture, this volume will prove useful. Most importantly, it provides what the average reader will find most insightful: the voice of the participants in their own lives themselves."

And more, the volumes of Freedom have been cited by sixty-five college-level texts, several hundred monographs, over three hundred websites and been the basis of museum exhibits, videos, and theatrical productions. Among those who drew upon them was a young documentarian, Ken Burns, whose famous Civil War series reached an audience greater than any college text could.

What the FSSP has done for slaves and former slaves--given them a voice in American history, other NHPRC projects have done for other people unrepresented in American history: women, Native Americans, working people of all sorts, and immigrants old and new.

These projects, like the FSSP project--which would not have been possible without the support of the NHPRC--have given the American people a new more inclusive understanding of their history. But even that is too modest a claim, because the world of the FSSP project as reached beyond the boundaries of the United States. Foreigners, who are deeply interested in the American people and the American past, and who also write our history, employed the volumes of Freedom, along with other NHPRC documentary collections--in print, in microfilm, and online--write American history.

Quantifying the influence of the FSSP is one thing, comprehending how it influenced our understanding of the American experience is another. I believe the evidence shows that reading the Freedom documents--especially the letters of former slave--has affirmed the American people's sense that they make their own history and that those people--ordinary people like themselves---who have shaped the past by extension can shape the future. In short, the Project's work--and that of history the NHPRC has sponsored for some sixty years is doing the work of history in a democracy: arming the people to take charge of the society which has been bequeathed to them.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you, Dr. Berlin, for your testimony and the wonderful work you have done on our country's history. Appreciate it.

Dr. BERLIN. Thank you.

Mr. CLAY. Dr. Daniel, you are batting cleanup.

STATEMENT OF DR. PETE DANIEL

Dr. DANIEL. Thank you, Chairman Clay and other members of the subcommittee, for the privilege of testifying in support of reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. As a past president of the Organization of American Historians [OAH], I am representing its 9,000 members, to include academic historians, K-12 teachers, public historians, and anyone interested in the history of the United States. The OAH publishes the *Journal of American History* and the *OAH Magazine of History*, and is vitally involved in the country's intellectual history.

The NHPRC provided critical support to the Booker T. Washington Papers Project that began in 1967 and that concluded in 1989 with a cumulative index of the 13 volumes of documents. As a graduate student at the University of Maryland, I worked with Louis Harlan on this project from its beginning until I graduated with a Ph.D. in 1970 and left as the Project's assistant editor.

The first volume of letters included this notation in the acknowledgments: The National Historical Publications Commission—Records was added later—for its part in initiating the Booker T. Washington Papers, its assignment of two fellows in advanced editing of documentary sources in U.S. history to the project, and several grants-in-aid.

I should add here that the diversity of these papers is just amazing. Booker T. Washington communicated with primarily Republican politicians. He was a very powerful Republican politician in his own right, recommended white people in the south for office. He communicated with philanthropists, teachers, farmers, Black and White people, rich and poor, men and women, and even with people in Liberia, where he sent some of his people trained at Tuskegee to teach people in Liberia how to farm the southern way.

One of the fellows for advanced editing of documentary sources, the late Stuart Kaufman, went on to found and edit the Samuel Gompers project, now in the process of publishing its final volume.

These projects have not only made available important documentation on two outstanding leaders, but also trained dozens of graduate students to evaluate documents, identify sometimes obscure people and events, and learn the craft of documentary editing.

The flourishing digital environment today is quite different from the card files used to track our documentation on the Washington papers in the late 1960's. In some instances, however, what we call progress bites back with unintended consequences. The microfilm editions so popular in the 1960's through the 1980's, for example, are barely useable today because computers are replacing microfilm and microfiche readers. There is a major opportunity to digitalize microfilm editions and make such collections widely available online. In addition, documents generated on early computer software

are often unreadable as programs roll over and become obsolete with alarming frequency.

The NHPRC is taking the lead in making digital editions of the papers of the founding fathers available. But to incorporate the diversity of the American experience, historical documentation needs a wider Web presence. Amid all the Web chatter, it is imperative that researchers find ample documentary sources that provide a factual basis for scholarship.

The genius of this country lies in its diversity, and preserving the records that fully document all citizens should be an important priority. The OAH enthusiastically supports the reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission not only because it has helped to train editors and graduate students and made available documentation of important people and events, but also because it has supported local records projects and, most important, helped preserve our documentary heritage.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Daniel follows:]

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STATEMENT OF

PETE DANIEL

FORMER PRESIDENT, ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS

BEFORE THE

INFORMATION POLICY, CENSUS, AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES

SUBCOMMITTEE

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HEARINGS ON

THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL RECORDS AND PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION

JUNE 9, 2010

RELEASE UPON DELIVERY

First, I would like to thank the Committee for the privilege of testifying in support of reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. My name is Pete Daniel, and, as a past president of the Organization of American Historians (OAH), I am representing its 9,000 members who include academic historians, K-12 teachers, public historians, and anyone interested in the history of the United States. The OAH holds an annual convention, publishes the *Journal of American History* and the *OAH Magazine of History*, and is vitally involved in the intellectual life of the country. Until I recently retired, I was a curator at the National Museum of American History. I have published six books, numerous articles, curated exhibits, collected objects, and conducted research throughout the country.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission gave critical support to the Booker T. Washington Papers Project that began in 1967 under Professor Louis R. Harlan's guidance and that concluded in 1989 with a cumulative index of the thirteen volumes of documents. I was fortunate to be chosen as the University of Maryland graduate student to work on this project when it began in 1967, and when I graduated with a Ph.D. in 1970 and left the project, I was assistant editor.

The first volume of letters included this notation in the acknowledgments: "The National Historical Publications Commission [and Records was added later] for its part in initiating the Booker T. Washington Papers, its assignment of two fellows in advanced editing of documentary sources in U.S. history to the project, several grants-in-aid, and the friendly interest of Oliver W. Holmes, Handy Bruce Fant, Sara D. Jackson, and Fred Shelley." I vividly recall Louis Harlan introducing me to Dr. Holmes at the National

Archives and the assistance his office provided as I searched for Booker T. Washington letters in numerous Archives Record Groups. Louis Harlan also sent me to Tuskegee University, the Schomburg Library in New York, and Howard University searching for Washington material, and I consider these assignments a formative influence on my career. One of the fellows for advanced editing of documentary sources, the late Stuart Kaufman, went on to found and edit the Samuel Gompers Papers project, now in the process of publishing its final volume. These projects have not only made available important documentation on two outstanding leaders but also trained dozens of graduate students to evaluate documents, identify sometimes obscure people and events, and learn the craft of documentary editing.

The Booker T. Washington project made available documents relating to African American farmers, businessmen, students, politicians, teachers, and philanthropists. Washington kept every scrap of paper that crossed his desk, so his papers open an invaluable window into the African American community, from George Washington Carver to the black farmer inquiring about Tuskegee enrollment for his son or daughter. Successful leaders in government, education, business and other fields usually understand the importance of preserving a record of their work, but many citizens work hard, mind their own business, and leave little behind to mark their lives. The NHPRC has been instrumental in preserving not only records such as those of Booker T. Washington and Samuel Gompers but also neglected but significant records in states, counties, and municipalities throughout the country that illuminate the lives of the less famous.

Without documentation, a historian is helpless. NHPRC projects that make available a wide range of sources have been crucial to historical scholarship.

In my career, I have traveled widely to find documentation. Without the diligent work of archivists from the large repositories to the small town libraries and from federal repositories to state and local archives, there would be fewer sources for historical research, and the historical record would be impoverished. The NHPRC has played an important role in giving assistance to projects of national significance in libraries and collections throughout the country.

The flourishing digital environment today is quite different from the card files used to track our documentation on the Booker T. Washington Papers in the late 1960s. The Washington Papers at the Library of Congress are second in volume only to those of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. These are paper records that, with proper care, will endure for centuries. In some instances what we call progress bites back with unintended consequences. The microfilm editions so popular in the 1960s through the 1980s, for example, are barely usable today because computers are replacing microfilm and microfiche readers. In addition, documents generated on early computer software are often unreadable as programs roll over and become obsolete with alarming frequency. While the National Archives and the Library of Congress have resources to attack this challenge, many state, county, and local institutions do not. There is a major opportunity to digitalize microfilm editions and make such collections widely available online. The NHPRC is taking the lead on making digital editions of the papers

of the founding fathers available. Amid all the web chatter, it is imperative that researchers find ample documentary sources on the web that provide a factual basis for scholarship.

The genius of this country lies in its diversity, and preserving the records that fully document all citizens should be an important priority. The NHPRC over the years has done a remarkable job in providing leadership in preserving documentation that allows a more complete understanding of our history. Members of the Organization of American Historians have played a significant role in NHPRC projects, for they understand the importance of preserving the documentary record of our past. The OAH enthusiastically supports the reauthorization of the National Historical and Publications and Records Commission, not only because it has helped to train editors and graduate students and make available documentation of important people and events, but also because it has through grants supported local records projects and, most important, helped preserve our documentary heritage.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you very much, Dr. Daniel.

We will now go to the question and answer session. I have a question for the entire panel, and let me start it off with Mr. Beschloss. Would you agree that it is difficult to quantify the benefits the public gains from NHPRC? You cite instances where research originated with NHPRC grant passes through our full educational system, from universities to elementary schools. When you combine the value of these educational gems that come from NHPRC along with the jobs created by the NHPRC, it is easy to see these ancillary benefits, wouldn't you agree? And I will start here and we can go through the table.

Mr. BESCHLOSS. I would. And I think the other thing is that, you know, this is part of the core mission of the United States, and that is to make sure that these things are gathered and preserved and disseminated, not just Federal Government archives in Washington, but, as I was saying, the Swedish immigrants or African-Americans in North Carolina or Native Americans in New Mexico. That was the intention of this. And the problem is that if you stopped it for a few years, there is a lot of that would be lost; you can never reclaim it.

Mr. CLAY. Dr. Hahn.

Dr. HAHN. Yes, thank you. I think the ripple effects of the NHPRC funding are enormous and, as you suggested, would be very difficult to lay out in the short time we have. I would just say that one of the things that I have learned, especially working with public school teachers who are trying very, very hard to interest their students in the past, have found, like many of us who teach in colleges and universities have found, that the use of documentary sources are not only exciting to the students, but make history come alive to them and make it clear that they can engage like we do in the process of discovery.

So when I have gone and worked with teachers, and I bring this material with me, they are very, very excited about it and the more access that they have to this kind of material, the more innovations they can bring to the classroom and accomplish, I think, some of the things that Professor Berlin said so powerfully before.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you for your response.

Ms. Jefferson.

Ms. JEFFERSON. I think that the support that we get from NHPRC provides jobs. And when you talk about cutting jobs from people, you are putting people out of work, and then they can't participate and give back. To give more money, that helps us all. So I think you get into a cycle there. I don't see where you can see cutting out a program and putting people out of work, people in the humanities, and you are going to retool them to then do what? So I think it is very important that we keep these kinds of opportunities open.

Mr. CLAY. Dr. Berlin, would you agree that there are some ancillary benefits?

Dr. BERLIN. Yes, I would certainly agree with everything that my colleagues here on the panel have said. I would also think of the NHPRC and the money that has been given to it over the years as an enormous investment that we have made, that we continue to draw upon. In some ways it is different than the question of em-

ployment and livelihood. We have created a bank of knowledge which has transformed our understanding of the past and transformed our pedagogy, the way we teach, as well, and that transformation is ongoing because each of those projects have added something to it, changed that debate, enlarged the debate. That is what makes students excited about the past.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you.

Dr. Daniel, is it difficult to quantify the benefits of the NHPRC?

Dr. DANIEL. Yes, I think it is impossible to quantify. And echoing what Dr. Berlin said, the impact of these sources is enormous. Children who have never seen a primary document, when they are reading what a person wrote coming out of slavery or reading what someone wrote to Booker T. Washington or what he wrote, it is not mediated by a historian; this is the real word that was done at the time, it is a primary source. And students love that because then they can figure out what the past was about.

So quantifying the impact of these records that NHPRC has preserved is impossible. We don't know how far it goes. It goes to foreign countries where people read about our documentary heritage. It is a big impact.

Mr. CLAY. Thank you all for your responses. Let me also state for the record that the NHPRC never funded the International Tennis Hall of Fame. NHPRC turned it down. The NEH funded it, but the NHPRC never funded the International Tennis Hall of Fame. That is for the record.

Mr. Chaffetz, you are recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you all for the great work that you have done. Our country is better because of the work that you have done. I believe, at least, personally, that the work needs to continue. But I will start with Mr. Beschloss here. If we are going to follow what President Obama's chief of staff and budget director have asked for and we are going to have to make a cut, what are we going to cut? I mean, looking at the Archives, you are the vice president of the Board of Directors Foundation for the National Archives, what would you cut?

Mr. BESCHLOSS. That is slightly above my pay grade; that is what you all are here to do. I guess it is rare in Washington when someone says they don't know, but that is not my—

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Fair enough. Fair enough. I appreciate the candor.

Mr. BESCHLOSS. That is not my perspective. All I can say is—

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I will give you a list, by the way.

Mr. BESCHLOSS. Pardon?

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I can give you a list.

Mr. BESCHLOSS. OK. All I can say is that let's say you decided to stop this for 5 years. There are a lot of things that we have all been talking about this afternoon that would disappear forever. You can't get them back.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Let me tell you. I have not heard any person ever suggest that we would totally stop funding the entire archive program.

Mr. BESCHLOSS. Sure. No, I am just using as a point of comparison.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I know. And just as clarification, my point is we have hundreds of millions of dollars that will still be allocated to this, and I support that. But we are trying to trim the budget. We are trying to make some tough decisions.

Dr. Hahn, you are very accomplished; you are very well published. I mean, just trying to read through your CV, which we just got, would take a long period of time, and your career has been very accomplished. I need to ask you, though, it says on the Truth in Testimony disclosure, "please list any Federal grants or contracts, including sub-grants and sub-contracts, that you have received since October 1, 2006." Are you saying you haven't received any? None? Nothing?

Dr. HAHN. No.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. My understanding is that the University of Pennsylvania has received some \$518,000 worth of grants through the NHPRC.

Dr. HAHN. Well, it didn't come to me.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Dr. Berlin, let me ask you the same question. Please list any Federal grants or contracts, including sub-grants or sub-contracts, that you received since October 1, 2006.

Dr. BERLIN. Not a nickel.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. My understanding is the total funding for the American Historical Association is \$536,863, and that you are here representing the American Historical Association. Why the discrepancy?

Dr. BERLIN. They haven't given me a nickel. It is outrageous.

Mr. CLAY. Would you please turn on your mic?

Dr. BERLIN. I have received no money from the Federal Government from a grant or as a member of the American Historical Association. I have not participated in a project that I know which has been funded by the Federal Government. The American Historical Association and the University of Maryland, particularly the latter, are particularly big entities; they get a lot of money from the Federal Government. They do all kinds of contract work. We have the largest physics department in the world. Unfortunately, very little of it has come to me and nothing has come to me since 2006.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. You are also supposed to list if the American Historical Association has received anything. You're saying that the American Historical Association has received no money?

Dr. BERLIN. I have received no money.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Well, I beg you to go back and look at your form, because what you signed 2 days ago says that the American Historical Association has received no money. We think you have received over \$500,000 through that Association.

And I would also ask, Dr. Hahn, if you would go back and review that form, please.

Mr. CLAY. But, Mr. Chaffetz, I am not sure he is speaking for the Association.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. It says he is. No. 4, "other than yourself, are you testifying on behalf of any non-governmental entity?" "Yes, the American Historical Association."

Mr. CLAY. I invited him as a professor from the University of Maryland.

Dr. BERLIN. Yes.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. It also says on the document that you provided, Mr. Chairman, representing the American Historical Association.

Dr. BERLIN. I am representing the American Historical Association here today—

Mr. CHAFFETZ. The American Historical Association received over \$500,000 and you don't know that?

Dr. BERLIN. I do not know that. And I couldn't tell you what they received it for, nor do I think I am responsible for the grants that the American Historical Association. I was asked to come here to speak on the American Historical Association's position on the National Historical Records Commission. I have done that. I have done that to the best of my ability. I have done that with great honesty.

I am not an employee of the American Historical Association, I am a member of that Association, with some 20,000 other people who are interested in history. So I don't think that is my responsibility.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. What I am asking for is that you go back and look at that document, because I think you will find that you were supposed to, as a representative of the American Historical Association, present to us in the Congress so we have time to review it, and we did not get it in advance, so that we understand. That is why the Congress created the Truth in Testimony. And I feel that it is incomplete.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. The gentleman's time has expired.

The gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JORDAN. Quick question. Mr. Berlin, did you consult with the American Historical Association prior to filling out the form?

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Jordan. I am sorry. I am sorry.

Let me recognize the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. DrieHaus, for 5 minutes.

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank the panel for being here. It is certainly not my intent to impugn your integrity. I think you are all here representing interests and you do have a body of work and dedication to historical archives and record keeping that are tremendous.

I would like to followup on the chairman's inquiry as to the value of this relatively small investment into cultural preservation and historical preservation, and if we could just go down the row. I mentioned earlier I am from Cincinnati, OH. We have the Underground Railroad Freedom Center, which has been tremendous not just for educating people as to the everyday issues of freedom that we experience globally today, but also the history of the Underground Railroad and the extent that slavery impacted the south and the north and the impact the Ohio River played and so many places along the river played.

But it has also been tremendously beneficial to us culturally, economically, and from an educational perspective the students from all over the region are now better informed when informed when it comes to issues of freedom because of that institution. I think those investments are good investments.

So I would like you to talk about any examples you might have of investments made that you are familiar with and the benefits, the compound benefits that you might see in those investments.

Mr. BESCHLOSS. Well, I would say, in a general way, Mr. Driehaus, I think an American is a better citizen if he or she knows history, and we are in a time when more and more Americans know less and less about history. So I would say for a relatively modest investment this would mean the Federal Government is saying not only do we feel that it is important for Americans to know history and also use primary sources, but also that history and primary documents are not just those that are sitting in Washington; just as important, sometimes more so, are collections and other historical evidence that can be very far from here.

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Just to followup, having served as a board member of a local historical society and working very closely as a State legislator with the Ohio Historical Society, I am very familiar with the difficulty these small organizations have in preserving local history, and I think you are absolutely right. While we have a tremendous resource in the Archives and the Library of Congress to protect so many of our national documents, when it comes to communities and when it comes to State history and the impact that history has made, preserving those documents is extremely difficult, and becoming more and more difficult as resources are cut. Would you not agree?

Mr. BESCHLOSS. I would, and I would say something else, too. I am all for costs being borne as much by the private sector as possible, and this is something that does that, because if you reauthorize in a strong way the NHPRC, you are making the statement to local communities we think that this is important as a country. That will bring, and I am sure you saw this in your own experience, people who are local to say, "well, maybe this is something I should contribute to myself."

Dr. HAHN. Yes, thank you. Well, your question is very large in many respects, but let me just say a couple things briefly. One thing is that, and I speak to the question of jobs that the projects that the NHPRC funds make possible, you know, we are at a very, very difficult time in this country, not simply because the general problems that the economic crisis has posed, but certainly for those people who are interested in their past, in the intellectual life of their country, and the possibility of going on and becoming academics and writers and teachers, we are in jeopardy of potentially losing an entire generation because there is no work for them. The NHPRC, most of the money goes to pay salaries and has been enormously important, even in the time that I have seen it, even when times were better economically and making it possible for historians to sort of find their footing.

The other thing I would just like to say is that one of the things I have seen, too, with the use of documents and the kind of documentary collections that the NHPRC makes possible is what it means for students to read about and understand how the most ordinary of people at different times in our past have been able to act in ways that really make a difference in their lives and in the lives of their communities. It is not something that you can simply get up and tell them about, it is something that they can see by using the materials. And I think there is no way to measure the kind of consequences and excitement and possibilities that experience opens up.

Ms. JEFFERSON. Again, I just want to speak to how important it is for the practitioners, for the archivists and the records managers, and how the support comes through the State so that we can get the training to do the work that we need to do; that we can get funding for some of the small projects; that we can get startup money so that we do have archivists and professional people to care for some of the local records.

There are a lot of areas that do not have professionals to take care of the materials, and that is where we get the funding for these small kinds of projects on a local level and we get the training so that we know how to deal with electronic records so we know how to respond in disaster recovery. These kinds of projects really are important and vital to our community as we work to preserve our records, so I can't stress it enough.

Mr. CLAY. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Thank you.

Mr. CLAY. You are welcome.

The gentleman from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I want to thank the chairman.

Let me say, too, I appreciate all the work that you do and the fact that you are keeping part of history not only for us, but for our families and generations to come.

Dr. Hahn, I did want to ask you. You made a comment a while ago that you had received no Federal funding, and as my colleague, Mr. Chaffetz, had said, I looked at your accomplishments and they are quite a lot. How did you do that, how did you accomplish all the things that you have? Where did you get the resources and where did that money come from?

Dr. HAHN. Well, I teach at the University and I have taught at a number of universities. I have applied for and I have received grants from non-governmental agencies to advance my research, and I am spending my own money in whatever way I could to make my trips to archives that I have organized records and made them available to me so that I could do that.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. So there are other grants out there other than the grants coming from the Federal Government.

Dr. HAHN. Well, there are all sorts of grants. I mean, I applied to granting agencies for individual scholarly grants, exactly.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. What would you say the total sum of all the work that you have done? Could you put a price tag on that? I know that would be awfully hard for you.

Dr. HAHN. Well, it is priceless.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I understand. I understand. And I am sure it is, but is there any—so it is priceless. I mean, you couldn't even put a value on it, really?

Dr. HAHN. I think the time and energy that most people like myself, and academics in general, I mean, we are on our own bill for the most part and it is a tremendous burden.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Yes, but, as the American way, you got it done without the Federal Government, right?

Dr. HAHN. Certainly since 2006.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Sir?

Dr. HAHN. Yes, since 2006.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Since 2006?

Dr. HAHN. Right.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. And, Dr. Berlin, you said the same thing, that you had not received any—

Dr. BERLIN. Not since 2006.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Not since 2006.

Dr. BERLIN. Right.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. So you had prior.

Dr. BERLIN. But let me say—

Mr. WESTMORELAND. So both of you had received money prior to 2006.

Dr. BERLIN. I am deeply indebted to the Federal Government for my own position and for the scholarship I created. Probably the largest debt, in point of fact, is to the NHPRC. I am pleased to acknowledge it. I came to the NHPRC with an idea, an idea that we could write a documentary history of emancipation, that we could tell the story of how this country goes from being a free country, being a slave country—

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I understand.

Dr. BERLIN. They supported that. They supported that and they continue to support that even though I am not involved in that.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I understand.

Dr. BERLIN. So my own career in some ways rests upon those Federal grants.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I understand. But you have done things without Federal grants.

Dr. BERLIN. I have done things without Federal grants.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. OK. So things can be done without getting grants from the Federal Government that would preserve history.

Dr. BERLIN. Certainly many things can be done and many things have been done. What I would stress to you is that this project, I am confident, could not be done.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I understand.

Dr. BERLIN. OK.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Now, let me just ask one other question, and I apologize for not being here earlier, and this may have already been answered, but if you look at the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, do you see any duplication there of anything that is being done? Because I have read of some of the grants that have come out of the history, and it looks like some of that could be money that should come out of the arts or the museum or the libraries. Do you see any duplication whatsoever in these agencies? And when you apply for a grant, do you apply to all or would someone applying for a grant—and any of you jump in on this—would you apply to all of them or just one in particular?

Dr. BERLIN. Would you like me to?

Mr. WESTMORELAND. You are fine. Yes, sir.

Dr. BERLIN. OK. Let me talk to what I know, and I know about two of those agencies that you have mentioned, the NHPRC and the NEH, the National Endowment for the Humanities, because I sat on the National Council for the National Endowment for the

Humanities under President Clinton and under President Bush. So I know something about those two agencies.

I would say if we took the two and we looked for coincidences, we look for places of overlap, we would find very, very small areas of overlap. There would be some areas in which there would be absolutely no overlap, that is the grants to archival agencies. There might be some areas in which there was some overlap in various publication projects, but I would say that they were very, very small and——

Mr. WESTMORELAND. OK, but let me ask you a question. But if you were applying for a grant, would you apply to all four of these or one in particular?

Dr. BERLIN. There were several of those agencies which I wouldn't apply to at all for certain. So if I was looking for a grant to write my history of emancipation, I wouldn't apply to the museum. There would be no point in that.

Mr. CLAY. The gentleman's time has expired. The gentleman's time has expired.

The gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JORDAN. First, I just want to followup, Dr. Berlin, if I could, on where Ranking Member Chaffetz was. Did you consult with the American Historical Association and ask them about any grant dollars they had received prior to filling out your form and signing it that you had received no money?

Dr. BERLIN. No. Sounds like I should have, but I did not.

Mr. JORDAN. So would you then say what you submitted to this committee of the U.S. Congress is inaccurate, where you said, on question 8, that you received no money or organizations you were representing, even though you said on No. 4 you were representing the American Historical Association?

Dr. BERLIN. The way I——

Mr. JORDAN. Would you say the statement you submitted to Congress and signed was inaccurate?

Dr. BERLIN. No.

Mr. JORDAN. You think it is accurate?

Dr. BERLIN. The way I interpreted it, yes, it is absolutely accurate.

Mr. JORDAN. OK. Appreciate it.

I will yield my time to the ranking member.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. [Remarks made off mic.]

Mr. JORDAN. OK, thanks.

Mr. CLAY. I recognize the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, Ms. Norton.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that you have held this hearing and only regret that other congressional business kept me from attending. I am struck by the fact the Commission may have set a new record, 20 years at the same funding. Congratulations, I suppose. [Laughter.]

Or shame on us. Whichever you choose.

Mr. Chairman, I am not for nickel and diming part of the budget where there is no money in the first place. I am inclined to believe that the Commission has paid its dues in 20 years at leveled funding.

For my friends on the other side of the aisle who claim such reverence for the framers, pay up. Show it once in a while. It is like family values: I am for it until it costs some money.

Now, I admit that I have a special interest. You have to indicate if you have any special interest. When I was getting my law degree, I also got a Masters in American History for the love of history. I have never used this disagree; I just thought that going to law school was like going to trade school. If one considered oneself a real intellectual, one had to really study something serious. And I have never regretted it because C. Van Woodward was at the university, and just the opportunity to study with one of the foremost historians in American history was worth every moment of it. It wasn't a very practical solution, but it certainly gave me an appreciation for why we would want to preserve as much of our history as we could.

We have budgets that are busting at the gut. The President is right to hold down virtually everything, but if I may remind the subcommittee, this is an authorization. All it does is to set a limit. You go and ask the many agencies, Federal agencies, not to mention commissions, when they last got the authorized amount, and the memory will not serve most of them well enough to be able to tell you. So I would think that we owe the Commission a reasonable increase in keeping with these times, to be sure. But I would think it would be very pitiable to leave them where they were after the testimony that you have heard today.

And I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CLAY. I thank the gentlewoman. Do you have to leave?

Ms. NORTON. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, until you all pass my bill, I am the one that doesn't have to leave. Do you have to leave?

Mr. CLAY. I do.

Ms. NORTON. I see.

Mr. CLAY. Would you conduct the hearing?

Ms. NORTON. Is there another panel?

Mr. CLAY. Yes.

Ms. NORTON. Yes, sir. I would be glad to.

Mr. CLAY. All right.

At this point, there are no further questions for this panel. We will dismiss this panel and ask the third panel to come forward. Thank you.

Ms. NORTON [presiding]. I want to thank this panel for coming forward. When the votes are over, the chairman will return.

We are going to go first to Dr. Peter Gottlieb, the State Archivist of Wisconsin, representing the Society of American Archivists, of which he is the current president. Dr. Gottlieb joined the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1991, after serving in the Archives at Pennsylvania State and West Virginia University.

Dr. Gottlieb.

STATEMENTS OF PETER GOTTLIEB, STATE ARCHIVIST OF WISCONSIN, REPRESENTING THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS; BARBARA FRANCO, DIRECTOR, PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION, REPRESENTING THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY; BARBARA TEAGUE, KENTUCKY STATE ARCHIVIST AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATOR, REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL OF STATE ARCHIVISTS; KAYE LANNING MINCHEW, DIRECTOR OF ARCHIVES, TROUP COUNTY, GA, REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATORS; AND SUSAN HOLBROOK PERDUE, DIRECTOR, DOCUMENTS COMPASS, VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES, REPRESENTING THE ASSOCIATION FOR DOCUMENTARY EDITING

STATEMENT OF PETER GOTTLIEB

Dr. GOTTLIEB. My name is Peter Gottlieb. I am the State archivist—

Ms. NORTON. Excuse me. I am sorry. The chairman does swear in all the witnesses.

All rise and hold up your right hands, if you would.

[Witnesses sworn.]

Ms. NORTON. Let the record reflect that the witnesses answered in the affirmative.

Dr. Gottlieb.

Dr. GOTTLIEB. My name is Peter Gottlieb. I am the State archivist of Wisconsin and director of the Library-Archives Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society. I am here today representing the Society of American Archivists, North America's oldest and largest organization of professional archivists, representing more than 5,700 members across the United States and in more than 20 countries.

On behalf of my association and the wider archives community in the United States, I wish to thank you for convening this hearing. I offer my testimony in favor of increasing the authorization for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's competitive grants program to \$20 million and creating a new program for pass-through grants that is also authorized at \$20 million.

In his election-night speech, President Elect Obama spoke eloquently of the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, liberty, opportunity, and unyielding hope. He added that our stories are singular, but our destiny is shared.

From community institutions like public libraries and local historical societies throughout America to the National Archives vaults here in Washington, archives keep our stories as a public trust and make them available to all. Just as we protect our country's natural resources to sustain our way of life, we must also safeguard this Nation's archives in order to strengthen democratic government and to pass down from one generation to the next our record of progress and the values our society upholds.

We need well preserved and accessible archives in order to write our school textbooks and design our instructional Web sites, in order to produce our documentary and feature films about America, in order to engage all citizens of our country in the continuing ex-

periment of democratic government, and in order to inspire people around the world with the standards of human rights and opportunity that the United States at its best represents.

NHPRC grants have provided essential support for this national goal, but its current authorization falls short of today's need. NHPRC is the only Federal program whose specific purpose is helping archivists and other professionals meet this national obligation. Its grants increase access to historical records and published documentary editions for use by classroom teachers, students, journalists, biographers, local historians, lawyers, genealogists, documentary film makers, and many others. In the majority of cases, NHPRC grants support new jobs for skilled professionals who do the preservation, digitizing, organizing, cataloging, or editorial work.

NHPRC grants contribute to our Nation's documentary heritage in the following areas: processing archives to make important primary sources more quickly and easily available; developing and testing solutions to the challenge of preserving computer-generated records; providing technical assistance in training and archives work for archivists that need to improve their skills.

NHPRC's competitive grants for archives are essential and must be funded at a higher level. But these grants by themselves cannot meet the range of needs to preserve and ensure access to all the historical records kept in American archives. Many local government and community repositories whose records constitute a vital part of our documentary heritage cannot qualify for competitive grants and do not benefit from any type of NHPRC funding.

These archives that are also preserving our Nation's stories need help from NHPRC that can come through a new program of pass-through grants. Administered by State archives under rules directing the vast majority of funds to local archives, these grants can reach many more repositories to create new jobs, strengthen their access and preservation capabilities, more broadly protect our national archival resources, and bring the history recorded in many more documents to people throughout the country. This new pass-through grants program should not subtract funding from competitive grants, but have an additional \$20 million authorization.

John F. Kennedy said, when he spoke in favor of NHPRC's initial authorization, compared with funds required for other programs for the national good, those requested by this Commission are modest indeed. His words remain true today. A reauthorization of \$20 million for competitive grants and an additional \$20 million for pass-through grants to States and territories is still comparatively modest indeed, but promises to make NHPRC even more effective in preserving our documentary heritage and ensuring its accessibility.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Gottlieb follows:]

**Reauthorization of the
National Historical Publications and Records Commission
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee**

**Testimony of Peter Gottlieb, Ph.D.
Wisconsin State Archivist
President, Society of American Archivists**

June 9, 2010

Chairman Clay, Ranking Member McHenry, and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Peter Gottlieb. I am the State Archivist of Wisconsin and director of the Library–Archives Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society. The Library–Archives supports the mission of the Wisconsin Historical Society by acquiring, preserving, and providing access to a large and distinguished collection of published and unpublished documents on Wisconsin and North American history.

I am here today representing the Society of American Archivists, which I currently serve as its elected president. Founded in 1936, SAA is North America's oldest and largest organization of professional archivists, representing 5,700 members across the United States and in more than 20 countries. Archivists are the professionals who are entrusted by society to ensure access to the records of the people's government at all levels, to ensure the authenticity and integrity of those records, and to preserve and make accessible a credible and reasonably complete historical account of government and other aspects of society.

On behalf of SAA and the wider archives community in the United States, thank you for convening this hearing. I offer my testimony in favor of increasing the authorization for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's competitive grants program to \$20 million and creating a new program for pass-through grants to states that is also authorized at \$20 million.

In the speech that he delivered on the evening of his election, President-elect Obama spoke eloquently of the true strength of our nation: "... the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, liberty, opportunity, and unyielding hope." He added that, "Our stories are singular, but our destiny is shared."

From community institutions like public libraries and local historical societies throughout America to the National Archives' main facilities here in Washington, archives keep our stories as a public trust and make them available to all. Just as we protect our country's natural resources to sustain our way of life, we must also safeguard this nation's archives in order to

strengthen democratic government and to ensure that we pass from one generation to the next our record of progress and the values that we as a society uphold.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission is the only federal program whose specific purpose is to help archivists and other professionals meet this national obligation. The Commission has awarded more than \$175 million in competitive grants to more than 4,600 state and local government archives, historical and genealogical societies, colleges and universities, and other institutions and non-profit groups in all states and territories. Funds are used for various purposes – preserving historical records, digitizing collections, producing oral histories, publishing documentary editions, establishing new archives programs – to preserve and provide access to records of national impact and importance. These grants make accessible records and documentary editions for use by classroom teachers, students, biographers, local historians, lawyers, genealogists, journalists, documentary filmmakers, and many others. In the majority of cases, NHPRC funding supports new jobs for skilled professionals who do the preservation, digitizing, organizing, cataloging, or editorial work.

Notwithstanding the fact that NHPRC's funding authorization has remained at \$10 million since 1991, the agency's competitive grants have a distinguished record of supporting innovation at the state and local level that has a major impact on federal records. These grants, which support new jobs at institutions throughout the country, have made substantial contributions to preserving and providing access to our nation's documentary heritage in the following areas:

- ***Improving the accessibility of the historical record.*** NHPRC research fellowship and archival processing funds supported the development of a method to reduce significantly the un-cataloged backlogs of collections in historical repositories around the country, thus helping those repositories to make important primary sources more quickly and easily available to students, scholars, and other researchers.
- ***Addressing the growing challenge of electronic records.*** NHPRC provides funding to help records programs address the explosion of computer-generated records. The work accomplished by the admittedly modest funding available has been essential in creating scalable solutions that can be applied in towns, counties, states, and organizations across the U.S. Without such work, the nation faces historical amnesia as its documentary heritage exists increasingly in transitory and highly perishable electronic formats.
- ***Making community connections to national history.*** On a competitive basis, NHPRC provides re-grants to states that make it possible for smaller, grassroots organizations scattered throughout the country to receive grants of even a few hundred dollars that can make a significant difference. These organizations, including historical societies, local public libraries, ethnic organizations, and local governments, are key to preserving the diversity of the record that makes up the American experience. These re-grants also ensure that it is not just the history of the great cities, but also of small communities in every corner of the country, that is preserved for future generations.

NHPRC's competitive grants for archives are essential and should be funded at a higher level of \$20 million. But these grants alone cannot meet the range of needs to preserve and ensure access to all the historical records kept in American archives. Many local government and community repositories whose records constitute a vital part of our documentary heritage cannot qualify for competitive grants and do not benefit from any type of NHPRC funding. The dollars within their own budgets are insufficient to match NHPRC funds, their current facilities often fall below qualifying standards, and they have a critical need for additional employees to manage the records entrusted to them.

These archives, which are also preserving our nation's stories, need help from NHPRC that could come through a new program of pass-through grants to every state and U.S. territory. These grants would reach many more archives, would strengthen their access and preservation capabilities, would more broadly protect our national archival resources, and would bring the history recorded in many more documents to people throughout the country.

Given the importance of the competitive grants administered by NHPRC, the remarkable return on investment that this agency has realized, and the unmet need for a pass-through grants program, the Society of American Archivists strongly endorses reauthorization of the NHPRC competitive grants program at an annual level of \$20 million and creation of a new program for pass-through grants to states that is authorized at an annual level of \$20 million. This modest amount for archives and records would complement other national initiative grants, such as \$250 million for libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), \$50 million for museums through the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and \$35 million for historic buildings.

NHPRC is the *only* federal program that focuses on records programs and projects. It is the *only* federal program that links federal archives with those held by states, counties, municipalities, universities, and nongovernmental organizations. And thus it is the *only* federal program that specifically supports Americans' right and need to know both their heritage and the workings of their public offices.

In order to write our school textbooks and design our instructional websites, in order to produce our documentary and feature films about America, in order to engage all citizens of our country in the continuing experiment of democratic government, and in order to inspire people around the world with the standards of human rights and opportunity that the United States at its best represents, we must have well-preserved and accessible archives. NHPRC grants have provided essential support for this national goal, but its current authorization falls short of today's need.

In support of the proposal for NHPRC's initial grant-making authorization, President John F. Kennedy said, "If the Commission is to plan a balanced national program...it must have resources on which it can depend. Compared with funds required for other programs for the national good, those requested by this Commission are modest indeed."

His words remain true today. In the last four and a half decades, NHPRC grants have proven the value of a federal investment in our documentary record. A reauthorization of \$20 million for competitive grants and addition of \$20 million for pass-through grants to the states is still,

comparatively, “modest indeed” – but it promises to make NHPRC even more effective in preserving our documentary heritage and ensuring its accessibility.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Ms. NORTON. Thank you very much, Dr. Gottlieb.

We hear next from Barbara Franco, director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, here today representing the American Association of State and Local History. Ms. Franco.

STATEMENT OF BARBARA FRANCO

Ms. FRANCO. Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about the value and importance of NHPRC. My name is Barbara Franco, and I am the executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. I am here today on behalf of a national organization, the American Association of State and Local History, whose more than 5,000 institutional and individual members represent the many historical societies, museums, libraries, archives around the country who together preserve the history of America in every county and corner of the country.

The members include large institutions with State or national scope, as well as small local organizations and archives with limited and sometimes all-volunteer staff. Together they hold billions of documents that touch the lives of young and old, support tourism and economic development, and employ thousands of people. They include the irreplaceable founding documents of our country, alongside the records of small communities that define the experiences of the ordinary people whose lives they represent.

The NHPRC helps these non-Federal institutions preserve records of historical value through grants that help locate, preserve, and provide public access to documents, photographs, maps, and other historical materials. These grants preserve collections and also preserve and create jobs by training staff and supporting the positions that provide these services.

In an era where accountability of government is under greater than ever scrutiny, preserving the documentary heritage of national, State, and local governments also means preserving the rights of American citizens and ensuring an informed and engaged citizenry.

As Charles F. Bryan, Jr., a past chairman of our organization and director emeritus of the Virginia Historical Society, has elegantly put it, free and open societies value history and turn to it for instruction. They devote significant resources to saving the evidence of the past and making it accessible to the public.

Documentary heritage helps preserve and protects the rights of all, holds government accountable, and increases knowledge of our history and culture for generations to come. Historical documents are sometimes a matter of life and death. I would like to say that during the 2002 Queecreek Mine rescue in Somerset, PA, which some of you may remember, archival maps were key in locating the trapped miners and saving their lives. Historical plats and deeds are continually referenced to establish legal ownership and property rights. Military service records are used to establish pension and other benefits.

NHPRC is the agency that provides institutions like the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission and other State and local institutions with the funding to preserve these historical documents. These projects train or employ archivists and make it possible for lawyers, teachers, biographers, authors, journalists, and teachers to

do their work. A recent grant in Pennsylvania, for example, has supported an itinerant archivist program that funds a professional archivist to work with the staff of local governments to do assessments, make recommendations and train their staff to better care for the records. These programs not only create work for the archivists, but help train local government employees to more effectively handle their own records.

Across the country, examples abound of how NHPRC is making a difference at the State and local level to preserve documents the public needs and uses. The Federal-State partnership with State Historical Records Advisory Boards have been key to the success of the grants programs, and these and other examples of how States are working with many diverse collections is testimony to the strength of the program. In addition, NHPRC has supported national initiatives through organizations like ASLH. Some of these grants have fostered regional cooperation and addressed major national issues like electronics records management.

NHPRC has been authorized at \$10 million for nearly 20 years, since 1991. Now more than ever, with the need for trained staff, the importance of digital collections, the need to share information with the public, and the demand for access to these collections, increased NHPRC support is sorely needed. We are asking that funding for NHPRC be reauthorized at \$20 million to help members of the public, archivists, documentary editors, and historians by preserving and making available non-Federal records that are essential to our national history and to the daily functioning of our democracy and our economy.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Franco follows:]

Testimony of Barbara Franco

**Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission**

**On behalf of
The American Association for State and Local History**

On

“Strengthening the National Historical Publications and Records Commission”

Before the

Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee

Of the

Oversight and Government Reform Committee

United States House of Representatives

June 9, 2010

Chairman Clay, Ranking Member McHenry and members of the Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about the value and importance of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant making affiliate of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). My name is Barbara Franco and I am the executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. I am here today on behalf of a national organization, the American Association for State and Local History whose institutional and individual members represent the many historical museums, societies, libraries and archives around the country who together preserve the history of America in every county and corner of the country. The mission of AASLH is to provide leadership and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. The members include large

institutions with state or national scope as well as small local organizations and archives with limited or all-volunteer staff. Together they hold and preserve billions of documents. These collections touch the lives of young and old, support tourism and economic development and employ thousands of people. They include the irreplaceable founding documents of our country alongside the records of small communities that define the experiences of the ordinary people whose lives they represent.

The NHPRC helps these non-Federal institutions preserve records of historical value through grants that help locate, preserve, and provide public access to documents, photographs, maps, and other historical materials. NHPRC grants preserve collections and also help preserve and create jobs by training staff and supporting the positions that provide these services.

This support is important because preservation and use of America's documentary heritage is essential to understanding our democracy, history, and culture. In an era when accountability of government is under greater than ever scrutiny, preserving the documentary heritage of national, state and local governments also means preserving the rights of American citizens and insuring an informed and engaged citizenry.

As Charles F. Bryan, Jr., a past chairman of AASLH and director emeritus of the Virginia Historical Society has elegantly put it, "Free and open societies...value history and turn to it for instruction, regardless of what the evidence reveals. They devote significant resources to saving the evidence of the past and making it accessible to the public. I don't think it is a coincidence that since our nation's founding, the number of historical societies and museums has grown to an estimated 15,000, more per capita than any country in the world."

By preserving our documentary heritage and promoting its distribution and use, Americans seek to guarantee the protection of the rights of all, hold government accountable and increase understanding of our history and culture for generations to come. Historical documents are sometimes a matter of life and death. During the 2002

Queecreek Mine rescue in Somerset, Pennsylvania, archival maps were key in locating the trapped miners and saving their lives. Historical plats and deeds are continually referenced to establish legal ownership and property rights. Military service records are used to establish pension and other benefits.

NHPRC is the agency that provides institutions like the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and other state and local institutions with the funding to preserve these historical documents and make them accessible. Since its inception, 237 public and private Pennsylvania institutions have received more than \$5 million directly from NHPRC or indirectly through the Pennsylvania SHRAB (State Historical Records Advisory Board) or the PHMC. Grants have supported inventory and arrangement of church archives. A processing grant arranged and described collections that document the social impact of mental health care at Pennsylvania Hospital, the nation's first hospital. Microfilming of county and municipal government records improved preservation and access. All of these projects have preserved documents, trained or employed archivists, and made it possible for filmmakers, lawyers, teachers, biographers, authors, journalists and teachers to do their work. A recent grant to the Pennsylvania Heritage Society has supported an Itinerant Archivist Program that funds a professional archivist to work with the staff of local governments to do assessments, recommendations and train staff to better care for records. This program not only creates work for the archivists, but helps train local government employees to more effectively handle their own records programs.

Across the country, examples abound of how NHPRC is making a difference at the state and local level to preserve documents that the public needs and uses. In Ohio, the Ohio Electronic Records committee offered three free seminars on "Guidelines for Managing Electronic Mail" and "Digital Imaging Guidelines in the spring of 2010. These seminars presented the requirements, guidelines and best practices for managing and preserving email and digitizing documents. More than 300 state and local government officials and employees of private organizations attended the seminars held in Columbus, Dayton and Elyria.

The Arizona State Museum has been a recipient of NHPRC grants for over 30 years. They use the funds to train students in the transcription, translation and annotation of Spanish colonial documents that deal with the history of Arizona's tribes. The State Museum team collaborates with tribal scholars and elders to read, discuss and contribute their commentary on the historical events described by the Spanish missionaries and military. Ultimately this work results in publications that are made widely available to scholars and the general public. It has created employment opportunities and training for university students and in the most recent project, Tohono O'odham Community College students. The tribal elders are provided honoraria as compensation for their time and expertise. The project also works extensively with the Hopi Tribe in northern Arizona and with the Tohono O'odham Nation in southern Arizona.

In Virginia, the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors Education and Research Foundation received funding to develop an archives and records management program to document its work.

In South Dakota, the State Historical Records Advisory Board received funding to support a regrant program that goes to local historical societies and county level offices. Future plans to establish a circuit rider archivist program will be more likely to happen if NHPRC receives increased funds.

The federal-state partnerships with State Historical Records Advisory Boards have been key to the success of the grants program and these and other examples of how states are working with many diverse collections is testimony to the strength of the program. In addition, NHPRC has supported national initiatives through organizations like AASLH. Since 1981, AASLH has received grants that support continuing education for archivists, training formative American archivists in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian as well as assistance in the development of local public records programs. Some grants have fostered regional cooperation or addressed major national issues like electronic records management.

NHPRC has been authorized at \$10 million for nearly twenty years since 1991. Now more than ever, with the need for trained staff, the importance of digital collections, the need to share information with the public and the demand for access to collections, increased NHPRC support is sorely needed. We are asking that funding for NHPRC be reauthorized at \$20 million to help members of the public, archivists, documentary editors, and historians by preserving and making available non-federal records that are essential to our national story and to the daily functioning of our democracy and our economy.

Thank you.

American Association for State and Local History							
Federal Grant Awards							
<u>Federal Agency</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Total</u>	
IMLS	Institution for Learning Innovation	\$39,214	\$179,998	\$204,572	\$27,334	\$451,118	
IMLS	STEPS	\$33,374	\$91,525	\$71,528	\$88,874	\$285,301	
IMLS	Bookshelf	\$0	\$5,361	\$1,091,933	\$639,745	\$1,737,039	
IMLS	Project Management	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$95,445	\$95,445	
NEH	IDEA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,801	\$16,801	
	Total	\$72,588	\$276,884	\$1,368,033	\$868,199	\$2,585,704	
Figures taken from AASLH audited financial statements.							

Ms. NORTON. Thank you, Ms. Franco.

Next, Barbara Teague, Kentucky State archivist and records administrator, and here today representing the Council of State Archivists, of which she is vice president and president-elect. Ms. Teague was appointed State Archivist in 2008. Ms. Teague.

STATEMENT OF BARBARA TEAGUE

Ms. TEAGUE. Thank you, Representative Norton, and thank you to you and the rest of the members of the subcommittee and Chairman Clay for holding this hearing. We really appreciate the opportunity to be here and talk about the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

As you mentioned, I am Barbara Teague, and I am the vice president of the Council of State Archivists, and I am the State archivist in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I have worked there for 27 years and I have 27 years of experience with NHPRC grants, and I know how effective those grants have been and how much more remains to be done with the grants.

CoSA, the Council of State Archivists, represent all 50 State archivists, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. CoSA's mission is to strength State and territorial archives and their work to preserve the America historical record. Most State archivists also serve as the chairs of their State Historical Records Advisory Boards, which we have all talked about earlier.

On behalf of CoSA, the archival profession, and most of all the millions of citizens who rely on archives and records, I ask that you reauthorize NHPRC not at \$20 million, but at \$40 million. Twenty million of that \$40 million would go to national competitive grants, sort of like a program that we have now, and \$20 other million would go for pass-through grants to the States that the State Historical Record Advisory Boards would then administer on their own according to the needs and priorities within the States.

Over the last 3 years, State archival agencies have endured very extreme budget cuts, many in excess of 20 percent; my own agency 25 percent. This has had a very negative effect on our Nation's records and on the individuals who depend on those records. In an era of significantly increased emphasis on government transparency, government records continue to play an even more crucial role.

From deeds, marriages, court cases, student school transcripts, and wills on the local government level, to documentation of licensing, human services, and environmental controls on the State level, to military service, health care and citizenship among the many functions of the Federal Government, records touch each of us as individuals. When archival documents are preserved in our States and communities, we protect the evidence of land ownership, the rights and privileges of individual citizens, the right to know about the workings of government, the genealogy of our families, and the cultural heritage of America.

NHPRC has consistently provided the Federal Government's only support archives in nearly every State, and that is NHPRC, not IMLS and not NEH. In Mississippi, emergency funds after Hurricane Katrina helped save valuable historical records on the Gulf Coast. NHPRC is currently supporting the New York State Ar-

chives in identifying and preserving the documents of families who lost loved ones during the World Trade Center attack. Every State, every territory, every local community has similar needs, from developing disaster plans that protect essential records to documenting the history of the civil rights movement to creating tools to bring historical records into the classroom and get children excited about learning.

In my own State, a grant of \$200,000 from the NHPRC in 1983 ultimately led to the Kentucky Local Records Program, which has awarded over \$16 million in grants. That is an 8,000 percent return on investment. The program has preserved almost every important record in Kentucky's 120 counties. Yes, we have 120 counties, and they each have about 50 offices, and that has created countless jobs to care for the archives across our State.

And please know that money for archival projects means money for jobs. CoSA's analysis of existing NHPRC grant projects shows that at least 75 percent of all grant funds are used for staff, demonstrating that money for archives generally equates to money for jobs. My first archival job was working on an NHPRC grant, and I did a quick survey of all the other State and territorial archivists, and there are at least 12 of us who started our professional careers with NHPRC funding, and we really didn't make much money, I can tell you.

But not just because of that, but because we know, as the chairs of our State boards, we see the needs in the States, I ask on behalf of all the State archivists in the United States and all the territorial archivists to allow NHPRC to make a comprehensive enduring impact to benefit our constituents and yours in every single State and territory and every community by increasing the NHPRC appropriation to \$40 million. NHPRC funding is essential to preserving the history of our Nation.

I would really be happy to answer any questions about NHPRC and its effect on our citizens and how State archivists need more resources to care for essential government records. Thanks again for this great opportunity to speak about the NHPRC.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Teague follows:]

**Statement of Barbara Teague
Vice-President/President-Elect
Council of State Archivists
and
State Archivist and Records Administrator,
Commonwealth of Kentucky**

**Before the Subcommittee on
Information Policy, Census and National Archives
of the
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
of the United States House of Representatives**

**“Strengthening the
National Historical Publications and Records Commission”**

June 9, 2010

Chairman Clay, Ranking Member McHenry, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for holding this hearing concerning the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). I appreciate being allowed the honor of testifying before your subcommittee on behalf of the Council of State Archivists to support reauthorization for the NHPRC. As the Vice-President of the Council of State Archivists, and the State Archivist and Records Administrator of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I have twenty-seven years of experience with NHPRC grants, and know how much more effective an increased authorization and appropriation for the NHPRC will be for state and local government agencies around the country.

The Council of State Archivists, or CoSA, represents the state archivists of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. CoSA's mission is to strengthen state and territorial archives in their work to preserve America's historical records. One of CoSA's major partners in our efforts to preserve and provide access to the records of the American people is the NHPRC.

I ask, on behalf of CoSA, the archival profession, but most of all for the millions of citizens who rely on records and archives, that you increase the authorization of NHPRC to \$40 million, with \$20 million for national competitive grants and \$20 million for pass through grants to the states. This is an increase over the current \$10 million authorization that has been in effect since 1991. This authorization increase will permit a larger appropriation so NHPRC may continue its national competitive grant program at a higher level and also begin to award formula based, pass through grants to the states. These grants can be used to address critical needs, far more comprehensively than current NHPRC grants are able to do, and be distributed according to priorities within each state, specific to its own requirements. The increased authorization for pass

through funding to the states will create more jobs in archives and records management programs and will provide the desperately needed capacity to preserve and provide access to essential evidence that documents both government and the individual rights of citizens, based on the varying needs in each state.

CoSA has a very strong interest in strengthening the NHPRC, because federal regulations assign specific duties to the state archivists in relation to the NHPRC. These regulations designate the State Archivist to work with the NHPRC as a "State Historical Records Coordinator" who manages a State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB). The state archivists and the state boards, or SHRABs, assist the NHPRC in disseminating information about grant opportunities, creating strategic plans for archives and records, and reviewing grant proposals from their states before they are submitted to the NHPRC.

CoSA members, in reviewing grant applications that come through the SHRABs prior to submission to NHPRC, are constantly confronted with the great demand for funding for archives and records projects. Authorization and appropriation amounts for the NHPRC are not nearly commensurate with the serious need that exists among your constituents and mine. Because of NHPRC's limited resources, only a small fraction of the requests it receives from among the nation's 14,000 archives and manuscript repositories can be supported. As a result, records that tell compelling stories from many viewpoints of our states and people, quietly disintegrate as they await basic care, preservation, and public use. It is time that this nation increases our financial commitment to the records that serve as the foundation of this democracy, that protect and give evidence of the rights, history, and development of this country in all its regions and among all our people.

In 2010, state archivists report state budgets cuts that would have been unthinkable a decade ago. The Kentucky State Archives alone, which holds one of the largest state and local government records collections in the country, has seen a budget reduction of nearly 25% over the past three years. With similar drastic cuts in state archival agencies across the nation, the effect on our nation's records, and on individuals who depend on those records, is reaching catastrophic proportions. We live in an era of significantly increased emphasis on government transparency, in which records play a crucial role and the demands and expectations for access to information is skyrocketing. At the same time, archivists and records managers face obstacles in that electronic records pose almost unimaginable challenges in terms of capture and long-term preservation. Archivists are in the untenable position during this time of fiscal constraint, of having to make judgments about where to expend their limited funds. We do not want to be compelled to choose what essential documentation we will neglect: new technologies, voluminous paper records of the recent past, or our most historic records.

Government records - federal, state, and local - contain the most indispensable documentation of individual rights and of individual transactions with government. From deeds, marriages, courts cases, students' school transcripts, and wills on the local government level; to documentation of licensing, human services, environmental controls, and policies on the state level; to military service, health care and citizenship, among the many functions of the federal government, records touch each of us as individuals. Government records are fundamental to our daily lives, our rights, and our responsibilities as citizens of this great nation. When archival documents are preserved in our states and communities, we protect the evidence of ownership of land, the rights

and privileges of individual citizens, the right to know about the workings of government, the genealogy of our families, and the cultural heritage of America.

Our nation has recognized the importance of preserving federal documents, archives and our history by its support of national institutions like the National Archives and Records Administration, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution. This support does not address the other vital archives that are held in state and local governments, historical societies, and library history collections. It is essential that more resources be directed to states and localities to ensure that documents and archival records can be readily used for a host of purposes by the people of this nation.

Without money to microfilm deeds of land transfer, what might happen to land ownership if the original is destroyed in a fire or flood, as happened during Hurricane Katrina? What might happen if a state's database of birth, death, or marriage records is not backed up properly? If criminal case files are not stored properly and disintegrate over time, will prosecution for repeat offenders or appeals of convictions be possible? What might happen if social work case files are not maintained and a child is abused or harmed because the record does not exist to protect him or her? What if the government does not carefully save documentation of its regulation of industry, and a disaster occurs that affects livelihoods, tourism, and plant and animal life? Where would we be as individuals, as people, without our records to document our history, our memory, and our legal transactions?

The organizations managing this essential evidence face many challenges, from destruction of our documentary heritage through fire and hurricanes, to the insidious deterioration of acidic paper, to the risks posed by unstable and inaccessible modern electronic media. The American record needs attention now, to ensure that the documents, records, and collections we need and treasure are cared for and available to all Americans for generations to come.

An additional challenge that we face in the states, and that our local and federal colleagues face as well, is dealing with preserving electronic data. Although it is expensive to save paper records and to store them in a secure and environmentally sound repository, it is far more expensive to preserve records that are created electronically. Variations in databases, systems, hardware and software, backup and migration requirements make dealing with electronic records more complicated. NHPRC has been in the forefront of providing money for research on how best to preserve electronic information and for initiating electronic records archives programs. We are making progress on digital preservation in many ways, but funding and leadership from the NHPRC is absolutely imperative to continue the work leading toward best practices and standards to preserve electronic records.

The state archivists' work with NHPRC grants is a superior example of federal-state cooperation using a limited amount of money to create a significant benefit to the country. Small grants are received by institutions in the states, to care for and preserve records, while creating jobs, saving many important records that form our collective history, and making records and archives more widely accessible for all. The need for the states to care for records of historical importance and records that document citizens' rights has always been great and is increasing dramatically with the demands of electronic records and citizen expectations for ubiquitous access.

Kansas provides one example of the significant impact NHPRC has had in states with limited resources. Patricia Michaelis of the Kansas State Historical Society and the current President of the Council of State Archivists, who deeply regrets that she is not able to represent CoSA at the hearing today, explains that "The National Historical Publications and Records Commission has made its money go farther and has reached more diverse audiences than most federal granting agencies.... The impact is particularly significant in a state like Kansas that has few professional archivists but numerous local historical institutions that house unpublished records.... The impact of NHPRC on archives in Kansas is highly significant but ultimately incalculable."

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History staff notes that the NHPRC has supported an extraordinary range of programs in that state, including the establishment of municipal and county archives programs, management of the state's electronic records, and a statewide survey of African American materials. Emergency funds enabled the State Archives to assist more than 80 cultural organizations in the months immediately after Hurricane Katrina, and to save some of the few remaining historical records on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Currently NHPRC funds are supporting the inventory and preservation of records, 1780-1920, in the state's first fourteen counties.

Like Mississippi, my home state of Kentucky does not fare well in various national rankings. That does not hold true for our state and local government archives and records programs, in part because of NHPRC grant money received at various times over the past three decades. NHPRC grants allowed Kentucky and other states to begin many projects and programs that continue to this day, including several major programs at my agency, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. For instance, in 1983, Kentucky received almost \$200,000 for a demonstration re-grant program for city and county government records. The program was so successful in providing preservation, security, and access that the state legislature appropriated permanent funding to continue this program. Twenty-seven years later, the Kentucky Local Records Program has awarded over \$16 million in grants for local government records. That is an 8000% return on investment. In addition, the program has created countless jobs in caring for or reformatting records, and preserved nearly every important record in Kentucky's 120 counties. Most importantly, records are secured, such as in Carlisle County, where all the deeds, mortgages, and wills had been microfilmed prior to a courthouse fire in 2008, or in another county, where a vandal removed pages from a deed book that had, thankfully, already been microfilmed. Although several other states have created programs similar to the Kentucky Local Records Program, most notably, New York, Missouri, and New Jersey, the majority of state archives do not have the resources to provide for the preservation of records of their local governments. These records secure the individual rights of our citizens, by offering proof of property ownership, marriage, divorce, and probate/property disposition. The states need the help of the NHPRC to provide for the preservation, safety, and security of these records of American citizens.

In another grant of note, the Kentucky State Archives was also a recipient of an early electronic records grant, or, as it was called in 1985, a "machine readable records program" for state government. This \$140,000 grant created three jobs initially, spurred the legislature to create three more jobs, and did ground-breaking work in saving early state government electronic records from destruction.

Many of my colleagues started their professional careers with a job funded by an NHPRC grant. I did myself in my first job in the 1980s, as did my colleagues in California, Georgia, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, and Rhode Island, among others. It has been the case both in Kentucky and around the nation that many demonstration projects have created follow up or long-term projects, all of which have created jobs to preserve and protect records. Archival and preservation work is labor-intensive, whether flattening records in folders for preservation; assisting a researcher in finding a personally significant record; or in reformatting a record through making a microfilm or digital copy. An analysis of existing NHPRC grant projects showed that at least 75% of the grant funds are used to pay staff, demonstrating that money for archives generally equates to money for jobs.

For the past two years, the NHPRC has offered grants called "State and National Archival Partnership" grants, or SNAP grants, to strengthen archives and historical records programs in each of the states and to build a national archival network. These grants have been for decidedly modest amounts, from \$15,000 to the maximum of \$50,000 for each applicant. Only seventy-eight grants, totaling a little over \$2.7 million in the past three years, have been awarded, because of the limitations of NHPRC funding. These grants have been absolutely critical to the states, and we applaud NHPRC for initiating this approach and strongly encourage its continuation and expansion into a larger pass through grant program to the states.

In spite of the limited funding, the opportunities that states have pursued to use these grants have had impressive results. An example of a SNAP grant is a recent award to the New York State Historical Records Advisory Board to ensure the identification and preservation of documentation of families and organizations affected by the World Trade Center attack. With modest funding of \$41,000, New York created a website "9/11 Memory and History: What to Save and How" that provides videos, instructions, and resource materials for families and organizations affected by the disaster. The information provided, while specific to one incident, is useful for any state or community experiencing a significant event—whether human caused tragedies like terrorism or a campus shooting, or natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina.

This New York project is, however, only one modestly funded project in one single state. The need that resulted in this project exists in every state, and on many topics and issues. There are simply so many unaddressed needs in the states: from developing disaster plans to protect records, to documenting the history and experiences of the Civil Rights movement, to creating tools to bring historical records into the classroom; so much needs to be done for so many purposes. The capacity to undertake such projects exists in every state. We lack, however, the federal directive for NHPRC to fund such projects, and a viable funding base to carry it out. We ask that NHPRC's authorization be raised sufficiently to allow it to begin making pass through grants to benefit our constituents and yours, in every single state.

The NHPRC has had a substantial impact in the development and progress of the archival profession in the United States since it began awarding grants for archives and records projects in 1976. The NHPRC and its staff have been supportive, innovative, and solution oriented. The many contributions that the NHPRC has made to the safety and preservation of our Kentucky records have been repeated in other states and institutions throughout the country. I cannot imagine that many of these archives and

records projects would have been undertaken or even conceived without the support of the NHPRC, the government agency that truly provides a great benefit with a very small appropriation of federal dollars. For our profession, the NHPRC is the little agency with the big impact. I ask you, on behalf of all the state and territorial archivists in the United States, to allow the NHPRC to make a comprehensive, enduring impact, to create even greater good, by increasing the NHPRC appropriation to \$40 million dollars. With this increase, the NHPRC could build on its success in creating archives and records programs, digitizing archival records, making more records accessible to the public, and leading states in strategic planning and research for historical and documentary records.

In the words of one of my mentors, Dr. Thomas D. Clark, Kentucky's Historian Laureate who spent over seventy-five years involved with Kentucky government records, until his death at age 101 in 2005, "The keeping of the public record of a civilized people is a continuing responsibility where properly the task is never completed. The vigilance necessary to preserve the record is synonymous with that of preserving the freedom of an open and democratic society."

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the subcommittee about the important work of the NHPRC, and its need for more funding to assist the states in meeting their archives and records obligations. On behalf of all the state archivists, who care deeply about the fate of and access to the nation's government records, we thank you for considering this topic. I would be happy to answer any questions about how the NHPRC benefits those who rely on government information and documentation and the resources needed by state archivists to care for essential government records.



CoSA

Council of State Archivists

Documenting government • Promoting history • Securing rights

Addendum to Barbara Teague's testimony on behalf of the Council of State Archivists on "Strengthening the National Historical Publications and Records Commission" for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee

I would like to add a few other examples of how grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) serve as seed money to create permanent programs and full time jobs. NHPRC grants play an important role in initiating archival programs that are successful in convincing institutions to continue the programs through their own funding. Modest investments through NHPRC grants can have very long-lasting results in stimulating program development, jobs, and commitment of state and local governments and institutions to provide for the care of and access to the American historical record. Some examples of this development include:

In 1983, Kentucky received almost \$200,000 for a demonstration re-grant program for city and county government records. The program was so successful in providing preservation, security, and access that the state legislature appropriated permanent funding to continue this program. Twenty-seven years later, the Kentucky Local Records Program has awarded over \$16 million in grants for local government records. That is an 8000% return on investment. In addition, the program has created countless jobs in caring for or reformatting records, and preserved nearly every important record in Kentucky's 120 counties.

The Tennessee State Library and Archives received an NHPRC grant of \$67,500 in 1996 to survey and assess local government record-keeping in Tennessee. This served as seed money for a demonstration local records program that today is a statewide county archives network in Tennessee, supported by three full-time staff at the State Archives, with an annual training institute and a \$50,000 annual grant program. The success of this program resulted in the state committing \$420,000 annually and over \$5,040,000 since its inception, to continue the program. In addition to financial and staffing commitments from the state, it has helped to establish certified archives and records centers, with trained managers, in 70 of the state's 95 counties all of which are supported by local funds.

The Westchester County (NY) Clerk's Office received a grant in 1985 of \$50,400 for a project to initiate an archival program for county government records. Support for the program was assumed by the County Clerk's office, and the County established a full archives and records management program which has grown into a model county archival program. It includes county funded support for six full-time staff members, a building, and a budget of \$910,597 annually.

The City of Alpharetta, Georgia, received an NHPRC re-grant of \$8,635 in 1997 to establish an electronic document management program and to digitize and make accessible engineering drawings from 1992 to the present. Since its establishment, the city has expended \$51,000 annually to continue this program.

The Dominican Studies Institute of the City College of New York received a total of \$24,255 in NHPRC re-grant funds in 2003 and 2004 to establish an archival program to document and provide access to the historical records of New York's Dominican community. The program was so successful that it was able to obtain \$1.3 million in funding from the New York City Council to renovate building space for an archives and library, and to hire two full-time staff. Those positions and ongoing expenses have become part of the regular CCNY budget.

The Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham, AL received \$74,379 in 1984 to establish a records management and archives program for the City of Birmingham and to provide a model for other large cities in Alabama. The Library assumed responsibility for funding this program thereafter, and provides an annual budget of \$124,000 for the program.

In 1999, the State-Assisted Academic Library Council of Kentucky received an NHPRC grant of \$32,623, to undertake planning and training in preparation for the creation of the digital archives portion of the Kentucky Virtual Library. Eleven years later, three professional positions are supported by the Kentucky Digital Library, which contains over 550,000 images from archival and manuscript repositories in the Commonwealth. In addition, "Kyleidoscope" provides educators with access to Kentucky primary source materials in historical context, for classroom use.

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives received a grant of almost \$144,000 in 1985, to begin an archives and records management program for electronic records. In addition to allowing Kentucky to provide guidance to many other states about computer records, this grant led to four-full time and several part time positions to work with government agencies and their electronic records, a nearly \$5.0 million investment in jobs over the past twenty-five years for preserving records in electronic format. In addition, this first grant and the subsequent program led to several other grants for additional research and project work in digital preservation, email management, and preservation of records in the state's Geographic Information System.

The American Field Service (AFS) received an NHPRC grant of \$50,845 in 1987 to develop an archives and records management program to preserve its records beginning with its foundation in 1914 as a volunteer ambulance corps in World War I. Following the grant, the AFS hired a permanent staff member and continues to support the position and program with an annual budget of \$153,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these additional examples of the use of NHPRC money to leverage long term funding from other sources to sustain needed programs. Over and over, NHPRC provides start-up funding to respond to a need identified on the state, local, or institutional level. NHPRC helps create the initial grant-funded jobs, and many times, that job is sustained through other funding, because of the great need for the program or service.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you, Ms. Teague.

Our next witness is Kaye Lanning Minchew, the director of Archives for Troup County, GA, here today representing the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators. Ms. Minchew has been director of Troup County Archives since 1985.

STATEMENT OF KAYE LANNING MINCHEW

Ms. MINCHEW. Good afternoon, Representative Norton and members of the subcommittee. My name is Kaye Lanning Minchew, and I have been director of the Troup County Archives in LaGrange, GA, since 1985. I am representing the National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators [NAGARA]. I also co-chaired the Council of State Archivists "Closest to Home Project" about local government records. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of reauthorization for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission [NHPRC].

NAGARA is a professional organization dedicated to the effective management of government information and its continued availability at all levels of government. Our constituents include archivists and records managers for over 21,000 local, State, tribal, and Federal Government entities in the United States responsible for records in their care, the records that document the actions of governments, the communities and citizens. Local government agencies are inundated with large collections of records and are begging for assistance with maintaining and providing access to these resources. NHPRC is a valuable partner and key to the continued availability of the records legacy of these entities.

The records we house in local repositories include a wide variety of materials. The majority is paper documents, but a growing amount is available in electronic format. Records include birth and death, voter registration, census forms, coroner's inquests, criminal cases, and much more. Materials include land records which deeded a slave woman and her young to a family leaving Georgia for Texas. Other items helped bring to justice a cold case murder that had lain dormant for over 30 years.

We also have files that show environmental and cultural changes over the years and support homeland defense. Our heritage is at risk every day. An archives or courthouse burns or destroyed by a tornado, and unique collections are lost or electronic records can't be opened. On a personal level, perhaps a recording your father made about his World War II service has been damaged over time. Your grandchildren will not be able to hear his voice or his story. Records at the local level touch the lives of our citizens every day and in a very direct way.

NHPRC provides grant funding that is essential to ensuring the preservation of archival records that provide the foundation for historical research in this country. Since 1976, NHPRC has awarded over 4,800 grants, 250 of these to local governments or programs of local records. Two of these awards were made to the Troup County Archives. Both grants have been extremely important in our existence.

An additional note about grants, as others have mentioned: they almost always result in jobs. By our estimations, at least 70 per-

cent of grant funds go to pay people. At a time of high unemployment, NHPRC grants and pass-through grants to States would stimulate jobs, jobs that often lead to permanent employment after grants end. Many of us in the profession, including myself, got our start in archival work this way.

Without NHPRC, the archival community has few options for support in caring for historically valuable records. We have seen the positive impact that NHPRC grants have made in thousands of large and small organizations and communities throughout our country. The current authorized funding level of NHPRC is woefully inadequate. NHPRC should be reauthorized and appropriated at a significantly higher level.

In addition to more funding, NHPRC should be expanded to include a pass-through grant program with resources directed to States and localities to ensure that documents and archival records in many forms can be readily used for a host of purposes by the people of this Nation.

Only by reauthorizing NHPRC and expanding its programs to include pass-through grants to States will we be able to ensure that this important component of the America historical records survives. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Minchew follows:]

Testimony
Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives of the Committee
on Oversight and Government Reform

Kaye Lanning Minchew, Archivist, Troup County, Georgia, representing NAGARA
June 9, 2010

Good afternoon Chairman Clay, Ranking Member McHenry, and members of the subcommittee. My name is Kaye Lanning Minchew. I have been director of the Troup County Archives in LaGrange, Georgia, since 1985. I am representing the National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators (NAGARA). I also co-chaired the Council of State Archivists "Closest to Home Project" about local government records. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of reauthorization for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

The National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators is a professional organization dedicated to the effective management of government information and its continued availability at all levels of government. Our constituents include archivists and records managers for over 21,000 local, state, tribal, and federal governmental entities in the United States responsible for the records in their care; the records that document the actions of government and the lives of citizens. Government agencies at the local levels are inundated with large collections of records that document the community and its people and are begging for assistance with maintaining and providing access to these resources. Large sums of money go into creating public knowledge and sharing this knowledge yet very limited funds goes toward the long-term care and access to these records. NHPRC, the National Historical

Publications and Records Commission, is a valuable partner and key to the continued availability of the records legacy of these entities.

The records we house in local repositories include a wide variety of materials. The majority of our holdings are paper documents, photographs, maps, and the like but a growing amount is available in electronic format. Records include birth and death records, obituaries, voter registration records, building plans, census forms, divorce proceedings, newspapers, coroner's inquests, criminal records, and much more. Our records can assist you in reaching back and "touching" your grand-grandparents. Our materials include land records which deeded a slave woman and her young son to a family leaving Georgia for Texas. A nasty divorce from 1835 gave wonderful details for a family researcher in 2009. Other items helped bring to justice a cold case murder that had been dormant for over thirty years. We also have files that show environmental and cultural changes over the years. Finally, after 9/11, many of us suddenly realized that among our accessible records were building plans for bridges over interstates. Access policies to these records have been reevaluated. Some of those records are no longer open to the public! Genealogy, national security, and law enforcement plus much more are all part of our daily job. Our heritage is at risk every day. An archives or courthouse burns and unique collections are lost. Electronic records can't be opened. On the personal level, perhaps a recording your father made about his World War II service has been damaged over time and your children and grandchildren will not be able to hear his voice or his story. Records at the local level touch the lives of our citizens every day and in a very direct way.

NHPRC provides grant funding that is essential to ensuring the preservation of the American historical record through supporting documentary editions of the papers of important persons in our history and for projects to ensure the preservation of archival records that provide the foundation for historical research in this country. Funding also assists local governments and archives in providing access to public records and information. Since 1976, NHPRC has awarded over 4800 grants; 250 to local government or programs of local records. Grants have played important roles in archives and government agencies across the country and in both large and small institutions. Two of the NHPRC awards were made to the Troup County Archives. We received one grant in 1985-87 to organize loose court files from the 19th century that had been saved from a courthouse fire in 1936 but left in a very disorganized form. We received a second NHPRC grant in 2006-2008 to digitize these 19th century records. They are now available to the public through the Digital Library of Georgia's website. Both grants have been extremely important in our existence, especially the first one which sent the message that we were a fairly new archives but we were here to stay.

One additional note about the grants: these grants almost always result in JOBS. Archival work is very people-heavy and labor intensive. Grants normally pay for some supplies or computer hardware and then the bulk of the money, at least 70% by our estimation, goes to pay people. At a time of high unemployment, NHPRC grants and pass-through grants to the states would stimulate jobs. In addition, these jobs very often result in permanent employment for workers after grants end. A lot of archives use grants to start a program or test a program and then commit their own money at the end to continue that program. Many of us in the profession, including myself and the

State Archivist in Georgia, plus several others here in this room today got our start in archival work this way.

Based on research conducted during the Heritage Health Index Project in 2004/2005, over 4.8 billion records and artifacts are held in public trust by more than 30,000 entities. Without the grant support of NHPRC, the archival community has few other options for support in caring for the historically valuable records. The federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars to support history programs in general, but NHPRC receives only a small amount--\$10 million-- to support records programs that in turn support historical research. We have seen the positive impact that NHPRC grants have made in thousands of organizations and communities, both large and small, throughout our country. The current authorized level of NHPRC funding is woefully inadequate, so in addition to being reauthorized, NHPRC should be appropriated at a significantly higher level.

In addition to more funding, NHPRC should be expanded to include a pass-through grant program with resources directed to states and localities to ensure that documents and archival records in many forms can be readily used for a host of purposes by the people of this nation.

Much of the American record—evidence of births, education, marriage (and divorce), property held, obligations satisfied and criminal conduct, evidence of the lives of individuals, families, groups and businesses—is held at the state and local level. Our state and local governments and history organizations preserve the records that protect

our rights and document our democratic society. This evidence is essential to documenting the wide range of stories of the American experience.

Only by reauthorizing the NHPRC and expanding its programs to include pass-through grants to states will we be able to ensure that this important component of the American historical record survives. Thank you.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you very much, Ms. Minchew.

Finally, Susan Holbrook Perdue, the director of Documents Compass, and here representing the Association for Documentary Editing, of which she is the incoming president. Ms. Holbrook was formerly the senior associate editor of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson Retirement Series. Ms. Perdue.

STATEMENT OF SUSAN HOLBROOK PERDUE

Ms. PERDUE. Thank you, Acting Chairman Norton. I am Susan Holbrook Perdue, president-elect of the Association for Documentary Editing [ADE]. I am very grateful for this opportunity to speak on behalf of my professional organization in support of reauthorization of the NHPRC and an increase in its funding.

The primary message I want to convey to this committee is just how essential the work is that documentary editors do and its importance to every American. As a society, we need the sort of expertise that editors provide in order to clearly understand the historical record and so that we might have informed and reasoned debate as part of a true democracy. This is not a partisan endeavor, but a mission to establish the definitive works of our historical legacy.

This is especially important when it comes to the texts of our founding fathers. These documents are at the core of our Nation's history and they continue to be the substance of significant debate. Many Americans want to lay claim to them, and they should. These documents are part of everyone's story. For this reason, they deserve the time and attention that they receive from the scholars who are now editing them.

The ADE was founded in 1978 to promote documentary editing and to build on our shared commitment to the highest professional standards of accuracy of transcription, editorial method, and intellectual access to our Nation's documentary heritage. The organization now has more than 350 members who work with a broad range of historical and literary figures. Many of our members depend on NHPRC funding.

Editors preserve the documentary record by creating a comprehensive catalog for all the known writings of an individual. We have performed a valuable service for future generations by collecting and preserving these unique archives in one place. Documentary editors play a beneficial role in establishing the documentary record because they authenticate and provide authoritative versions of the letters and documents produced by their subjects. Editors become experts on all aspects of their subject matter, from their handwriting to their habits.

The documentary editions of the founding fathers, the papers of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington, all have a long and integral history with the National Archives itself, as do the documents associated with the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the first Federal Congress, and the early Supreme Court. Make no mistake about it, these projects are publishing the records of our Federal Government.

One of the most beneficial tasks we perform as editors is ensuring that documents make sense to modern audiences. Editors re-

veal the hidden meaning in documents through extensive research. This work takes time.

Historical documentary editions and records are used by an ever-widening audience, ranging from school children to advanced scholars, as well as genealogists, curators, and the general public. Projects such as the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers produce lesson plans for ages K through 12. Ken Burns' recent documentary film on the National Parks drew on the John Muir papers project that was supported by NHPRC. And recent episodes of *American Experience* and *History Detectives* featured editors from three separate NHPRC sponsored projects.

Many editors are now retooling in order to meet the demands of both print and digital publication. In order to respond to this new digital world, they look to organizations such as the NHPRC to provide the necessary funding to enable this to happen. There is substantial work to be done on digitizing and providing additional editorial resources to make the thousands of rolls of microfilm from projects done in the 1960's and 1970's available on the Internet. New efforts will need new support.

Nonetheless, our mission as documentary editors has changed little over time, even with the added challenge of publishing online. We will adhere to the same high standards we have always followed, regardless of the ultimate medium. We are indeed at a crossroads. This is true not only for the profession of documentary editing, but for archives and repositories worldwide.

As we read about the perceived negative impact of the Internet on people as they are increasingly gathering their knowledge through multitasking and sound bites, all of which threaten to shorten our attention spans, we recognize the urgent need for reliable, durable, and rich content on the World Wide Web. Now more than ever we want the good to drive out the bad. If we cutoff support to NHPRC and to the editors and projects that have produced superlative editions for over half a century, we cutoff their ability to reach a new global audience in ways none of us could have imagined 20 years ago.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Perdue follows:]

TESTIMONY OF SUSAN H. PERDUE
 PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR DOCUMENTARY EDITING
 BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
 INFORMATION POLICY, CENSUS, AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES
 OF THE
 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
 ON
 "REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS
 COMMISSION"
 JUNE 9, 1010

Chairman Clay, ranking Member McHenry, and Members of the Subcommittee, I am Susan Holbrook Perdue, president-elect of the Association for Documentary Editing. I am very grateful for this opportunity to speak on behalf of my professional organization in support of reauthorization of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and an increase in its funding. I look forward to the insights provided by my fellow panelists.

My purpose here today is twofold. First, I want to describe what it is that documentary editors do and the manner in which the profession preserves, establishes, explains, and makes accessible our nation's historical and literary documents. Second, I will make the case that what we do as documentary editors is not possible without the ongoing support of the NHPRC. The strongest message I want to impart is exactly how essential the work we do is to every American. As a society, we need the sort of expertise that editors provide in order to clearly understand and look at the historical record so that we might have informed and reasoned debates as part of a true democracy. This is not a partisan endeavor but a mission to establish the definitive works of our historical legacy. This is especially important when it comes to the texts of our Founding Fathers. These documents are at the core of our nation's history and they continue to be the substance of significant debate. Many Americans want to lay claim to them, and they should. These documents are part of everyone's story. For this reason, they deserve the time and attention that they receive from the scholars who are now editing them.

The Association for Documentary Editing, or ADE, is the professional organization for documentary editors. It was founded in 1978, three years after the establishment of the NHPRC, by a group of editors with the mission to promote documentary editing through the cooperation and exchange of ideas among the community of editors. The ADE was also created to build on our shared commitment to the highest professional standards of accuracy of transcription, editorial method, and intellectual access to our nation's documentary heritage.

The ADE now has more than 350 members who work with a wide range of historical and literary figures, representing a broad swath of our country's history.

For example, there is an editorial project called Documentary Relations of the Southwest working on the first written accounts of contact with indigenous peoples in the 16th century representing the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, and northern Mexico.¹ The Race and Slavery Petitions Project located at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro has a free web-based searchable collection of nearly 3,000 legislative and almost 15,000 county court petitions from sixteen southern states including the District of Columbia. These petitions, written on behalf of, or by slaves and free blacks, date from the period of the American Revolution to the Civil War.² The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project located at George Washington University is working with a variety of media that showcase Roosevelt's writings as well as her television, and radio recordings. The project provides an electronic edition of Roosevelt's 8,000 "My Day" columns free to anyone with Internet access. The Papers of George Catlett Marshall has been publishing the records of that significant military leader and architect of the Marshall Plan since 1977. When Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates received the Marshall Foundation Award in the fall of 2009, he acknowledged the importance of the written legacy in quoting from Marshall's speeches and he pointed to the lessons he had learned from Marshall in making political and military decisions. Volumes one through five are available for free online.³

These are a few examples of the variety of documentary editions represented within ADE. As our profession has expanded, so have the subjects, which now encompass the sciences, medicine, philosophy, religion, and the arts as well. There are projects devoted to the writings of Albert Einstein, George Santayana, Joseph Smith, and Emily Dickinson, among others. ADE's members publish documents in print volumes, on microfilm, and increasingly on the web. From its inception, the ADE has worked with the NHPRC as a collaborator and partner in supporting our shared and often overlapping interests as archivists, editors, and scholars. We have worked together for over three decades to preserve and to our present our documentary heritage.

¹To read more about the Documentary Relations of the Southwest, go to:
<http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/oer/>

² To read more about the Race and Slavery Petitions project, go to:
http://library.uncg.edu/slavery_petitions/history.aspx

³ For the George C. Marshall Foundation and a note on Gates's acceptance speech, see
<http://www.marshallfoundation.org/RGates101609.htm>

The members of ADE quickly recognized that, in a profession that is heavily dependent upon public funding from the NHRPC and other federal agencies, state historical societies and archives, we needed a concerted advocacy effort. In February 1981, not long after ADE's founding, our membership faced a federal funding crisis of monumental proportions for the profession: the first proposed zeroing out of the NHRPC's grants program and the proposal to let the authorization for that grant program expire. ADE mounted a full scale advocacy effort. In response to this emergency, the ADE became one of the two founding organizations behind the Coalition to Save Our Documentary Heritage, which eventually became an advocacy group that spoke for 55 member organizations on NHRPC and National Archives (NARA) issues. In the absence of any historical or archival advocacy network, the ADE took a leadership role in the effort to save NHRPC and its grants program, and in restoring the National Archives' status as an independent agency.

The ADE has continued to play a greater advocacy role than its size would indicate in the National Coalition for History and the National Humanities Alliance. We have provided leadership in both coalitions and we make significant financial contributions to them despite our relatively small size. ADE is also a financial sponsor of Humanities Advocacy Day. Its members travel to Washington each year to participate in this day of meetings with members of Congress and committee staffers. Our membership responds to calls from both of these advocacy organizations to send action alerts and to contact members in Congress directly.

Over the decades the funding of the NHRPC has repeatedly been threatened and we have worked to beat back those threats through concerted actions. I am here today as part of my organization's now thirty-year effort to focus attention on the central role that the NHRPC has played in the professional life of nearly every documentary editor now working. ADE believes that reauthorization for the NHRPC at an increased level of \$20 million annually is vital to the ongoing work of nearly every person who describes him or herself as a documentary editor. It is equally important to those who are poised to begin exciting new projects; the young scholars who are waiting in the wings and applying for first time funding to launch those projects. They are looking for a foothold into the profession. For many would-be editors, grants from NHRPC will be make that happen.

Although I have yet to take on the role as president of the Association for Documentary Editing, I have been a documentary editor my entire working life since 1987 when I began as a research assistant at the Papers of James Madison at the University of Virginia. The Madison Papers has received support from NHRPC for over four decades, helping its staff to publish 32 print volumes some of which I was proud to put my name to. Like many of my colleagues, I attended the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents sponsored by NHRPC. From 1996 to 2000, I worked as an editor on the Papers of John Marshall, a project that is now complete. Consisting of twelve volumes, the Marshall Papers includes the correspondence and legal writings of Chief Justice Marshall. The Marshall Papers project was supported, in part, with funds from the NHRPC. More recently, in my role as Director of Documents Compass, a division of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, I managed a grant from the NHRPC to provide access to over 5,000 Founding Fathers documents that are now freely available on the web.

Who are Documentary Editors?

The majority of my fellow documentary editors who work on ADE-associated projects are university-based editors, researchers, and faculty members. Many of them teach classes in History and English departments across the country; many are involved with library and archival programs, some work at historical societies; they all promote the profession of documentary editing. Documentary editing projects range in size from staffs of a solo editor to projects of five to ten full time staff members. Some projects have editors living miles apart but working collaboratively via phone and email, and relying on more modern methods such as Skype and web-based databases. All of the projects, whether they are large or small, are highly collaborative enterprises. Each staff member is critical to the process of publishing documents. Even those projects run by a single person rely on the cooperation and support of funders, presses, and archivists to get their work done. Documentary editing projects are most successful when they can maintain a constant staffing level so that they keep up a steady rate of publication, and more importantly, so that each staff member continues to build up his or her expertise and knowledge of the subject of their edition. The sustainability of a project's staff relies on steady funding from agencies such as NHPRC.

Documentary Editors Preserve the Documentary Record

Documentary editors preserve the documentary record in a unique way. Each project amasses a comprehensive facsimile (or photocopy) collection of the writings of an individual, including his or her incoming and outgoing correspondence, diaries, and account books. Drawn from multiple institutions, these copies of original manuscripts provide the basis for the transcription work as well as the annotations included with each document published. The project creates a catalog that accounts for all of these documents. Whether that catalog is paper or in the form of a sophisticated database, it is a unique and valuable resource because it is a comprehensive description of all of the known writings of the key figures in American history. The only place in this country where there is a complete listing of all of the known writings of Martin Luther King, for example, is at the King Research and Education Institute at Stanford University and home to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers.⁴ No one archive or repository in the country or world will take on this task, or is even charged with this responsibility. No single archive owns all of the originals.

When documentary editors publish their documents, they account for all of the documents that they know about. Usually they print them in full but sometimes they make the decision to mention rather than print a document. Projects collect all sorts of documents, ranging from the mundane to the seminal documents of our history. In the course of time, even the most innocent documents can take on new meaning and find a new importance with future audiences or in certain hands. A list of book titles or household items in the Papers of James

⁴ For the King Research and Education Institute, see <http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php>

Madison may seem of marginal interest to the political historian, but for the curatorial staff at Montpelier, Madison's Virginia home, the list is a goldmine of information. Thomas Edison's experiments with ink on a slip of paper using his electric pen may be of little use to social historians but a historian of science could use it to study the evolution of Edison's inventions.⁵ Documentary editors perform a valuable service in creating these comprehensive collections because we cannot anticipate today what future generations of Americans will be interested in. They will want us to provide them the means for gaining access to all types of documents so that they can make their own informed decisions about our documentary record.

Documentary Editors Establish the Documentary Record

Documentary editors play a beneficial role in establishing the documentary record. In addition to their creation of a catalog of writings as described above, editors establish the historical record of the subjects they work with. They authenticate, validate, and provide authoritative versions of the letters and documents produced by their subject. When a recent claim was made by the Susan B. Anthony List that Anthony was opposed to abortion rights, the editor of Anthony's papers, Ann Gordon, and an Anthony biographer weighed in: "We have read every single word that this very voluble—and endlessly political—woman left behind. Our conclusion: Anthony spent no time on the politics of abortion."⁶

Documentary editing is a very specialized field. Its practitioners become experts on their subject matter. They develop an unparalleled familiarity with the handwriting, the habits, and the habitats of the person they edit. They can usually recognize fakes and forgeries and can be counted on to set the record straight when it comes to establishing the documentary record. This will be increasingly vital in the years to come as we are likely to see a younger generation of Americans who access all of their primary documents on the World Wide Web. They may not be able to distinguish the real documents from the fake ones.

The documentary editions of the Founding Fathers editions—the papers of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington—all have a long and integral history with the National Archives itself, as do the documents associated with the ratification of the United States Constitution, the first Federal Congress, and the early Supreme Court. The scholarly effort to compile a complete and reliable version of the Founding Fathers writings began with the publication of the first volume of the Jefferson Papers in 1950. A crucial part of the development of these projects was the federal support for documentary-based work through the National Historical Publications Commission (NHPC), created in 1934 and precursor

⁵ The Papers of Thomas Edison account for 66 different types of documents. For the 1867 ink sample by Edison, go to the Papers of Thomas Edison at [<http://edison.rutgers.edu/NamesSearch/DocDetImage.php3>](http://edison.rutgers.edu/NamesSearch/DocDetImage.php3).

⁶ "Sarah Palin is no Susan B. Anthony," in the *Washington Post*, 18 May 2010, accessed at http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/guestvoices/2010/05/sarah_palin_is_no_susan_b_anthony.html

to the NHPRC which came forty years later. The Founding Fathers projects have become a benchmark for what scholars have come to expect: access to the thoughts and events of this period in the development of the American nation. They have all been made possible through ongoing support from NHPRC.

The Founding Fathers projects and many other documentary editions are publishing the records of the federal government which is in keeping with the mission of the National Archives. In fact, many of the editorial projects work extensively with documents held by the National Archives: pension records, war and state department records, territorial papers, and legislative records, are just a few of the records groups held at the National Archives that are published in documentary editions.

As we speak, a team of editors from the Papers of Abraham Lincoln based in Springfield, Illinois, is combing through the National Archives holdings in search of known and unknown Lincoln documents. By the time their search is complete, they will have searched through eighty different record groups in Archives I and II, including: the War and Navy Department records, military records, records of the United States Congress and Supreme Court, and the government of the District of Columbia.⁷ Editors are constantly searching for new documents in the collections of the National Archives and in archives across the nation and around the world. Even though many major collections of documents have been cataloged by the National Archives and other repositories large and small, there are hundreds if not thousands of documents that haven't yet been discovered. Much work remains to be done.

Documentary Editors make the Documentary Record Understandable

One of the most time consuming tasks we perform as editors is ensuring that each document make sense to our users. Every document has a context; a story. Who wrote it? What were they doing at the time? What were they thinking? What were they reading at the time? These are the types of questions that an editor tries to answer when editing and annotating a document. The answers can oftentimes illuminate the intention of a phrase or reference in a letter that would make no sense to a casual reader. Editors crack open each document to reveal its hidden meaning. This kind of work takes time. A document may defy the editor's own ability to understand it. Editors must dig through other sources such as newspapers, manuscripts, literary works, and speeches. They develop expertise in a wide range of topics such as diplomatic and military history, politics, geography, agriculture, finances, and science, to name a few.

The knowledge and understanding of a document do not come with it automatically. It is knowledge that is passed on through history with that document. It is in part the document's provenance or chain of ownership: Who owned it first? Second? Which family member ended

⁷ For the Lincoln Papers newsletter on this see
<http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org/NewsletterPDFs/EDITOR30.pdf>

up with it one hundred years later? How did it come to be in the repository that owns it today? Editors are a little like forensic scientists. No detail is too small for consideration as editors investigate handwriting, stray marks, address covers, ink, and all of the visual clues embedded in the documents.

Editors decode letters written in cipher that would be incomprehensible to any users without their having cracked the code. Editors translate the hundreds of foreign language documents that show up in the collections of the Founding Fathers such as Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams. Without the translations the documents would be difficult if not impossible for most Americans to use or understand, especially as many of these historical documents are not just in French or Italian, but they have Greek, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, or symbols that are unrecognizable to us today. Without the editor's work, these seminal Founding Era documents would be just so much gibberish.

We need to educate our nation's school children whose sole experience with primary documents will be through the use of the World Wide Web. How will they know that they are looking at "real documents"? Who will provide them with an understanding of where this document came from other than documentary editors?

Documentary Editors Make the Record Accessible

Historical documentary editions and records are used by an ever-widening audience including: scholars, students and teachers at every educational level, documentary filmmakers, museum curators, genealogists, jurists and the general public. The Internet has opened up a new world for the dissemination of the products of NHPRC-funded projects, but that dissemination and truly democratic access to reliable historical sources will come at a substantial cost. Projects assisted by NHPRC grants ensure that these Internet resources are reliable, accessible, and durable for the long term.

NHPRC supported editorial projects have cooperated with educators to create online resources for teachers and students. The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers produces lesson plans and they work tirelessly to get documents out to teachers at all levels. The project website has a section called "Teaching Eleanor Roosevelt" including lesson plans for ages K through 12, as well as a section entitled "Teaching Human Rights."⁸

Documentary editions have user communities that look to us as information centers on their subjects. Our editions feed directly into publications in the scholarly realm but they also have a reach that extends far beyond academic audiences. Many editorial projects have acted as advisors to programs on PBS—from the recent American Experience feature on Dolley Madison

⁸ For the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project's section for teachers, see <http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teaching/lesson-plans/>

which reached 5 million viewers and included interviews with editors from the Dolley Madison and James Madison projects—to the show *History Detectives* which visited the editorial staff of the Adams Papers in August 2009 to help confirm a signature in a book as John Adams's. The recent documentary film "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," by Ken Burns incorporated forty-seven images from the John Muir Papers, a project funded by NHPRC. The editors at the First Federal Congress Project regularly answer questions from Congressional staff, the Congressional Research Service, and federal agency historical offices. It is clear that our documentary editions are a rich resource for all Americans.

NHPRC Sponsored Editions Enrich Human Understanding

My fellow documentary editor, Beverly Wilson Palmer, is an example of one whose career has been affected by the NHPRC. An editor at Pomona College and longtime member of ADE, Palmer states that "Over the past 25 years, NHPRC grants have made a significant difference in my professional life and, I trust, in the scholarly world as well."⁹ She received her first NHPRC grant in 1984 from which she published an 85 reel microfilm edition of the letters of Charles Sumner, an anti-slavery senator from Massachusetts. This material provides a wealth of material for students of the nineteenth century featuring letters from Frederick Douglass, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and John Greenleaf Whittier, to name a few. From 1991 to 1997, Palmer completed a 12-reel microfilm edition of the Papers of Thaddeus Stevens, another anti-slavery advocate who was Sumner's counterpart in the House of Representatives. In both projects, print editions were published as well as microfilm.

Palmer then went on to publish the *Selected Letters of Lucretia Coffin Mott* with the help of an NHPRC grant from 1997-2002. Mott was a Quaker and an anti-slavery activist and a champion of women's rights. Finally, NHPRC funded from 2004 to 2006 an edition of the letters of progressive reformer Florence Kelley, who fought for better working conditions for women and children.¹⁰ Palmer's prolific career as an editor was made possible through the support of NHPRC grant money that enabled this dedicated scholar to complete not one, but four different editorial projects. These projects together have produced abundant primary material related to periods of tumultuous change in our nation's history. The topics of anti-slavery, women's rights, and progressive reform represented here provide valuable insights for us. We are all much richer for it.

⁹ NHPRC News, May 2009 Enewsletter, pp. 4-5.

¹⁰ Kathryn Kish Sklar and Beverly Wilson Palmer participated in a book discussion of their recently-published volume, *The Selected Letters of Florence Kelley*, held at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. on April 7. On April 9, Sklar and Palmer joined Mary Lynn McCree Bryan, editor of the Jane Addams Papers and Ann Gordon, editor of the Stanton/Anthony Papers in a panel discussion, "What New Insights About Women in Public Life Can We Find in Recent Scholarly Editions of Women's Letters and Papers, 1870-1919?" at the Organization of American Historians Meeting in Washington, D.C.

A grant from the NHPRC made it possible for the Walt Whitman Archive to publish online for the first time ever, the Civil War Correspondence of Whitman. Some of the letters had appeared in print but some have never appeared in print before. The six hundred letters reveal what Whitman described as “the volcanic upheaval of the nation.” They cover the dawning of the Civil War, the treatment of wounded soldiers, and the election of Abraham Lincoln. These are subjects that resonate with modern readers as wounded soldiers return from Iraq and Afghanistan. They allow us to see historical parallels between the Civil War and our current engagements, through the eyes of America’s national poet. Whitman’s words are powerful and poignant, as in the following example from a letter he wrote to the mother of a soldier who died in the hospital.

I can say that he behaved so brave, so composed, and so sweet and affectionate, it could not be surpass’d. And now like many other noble and good men, after serving his country as a soldier, he has yielded up his young life at the very outset in her service. Such things are gloomy—yet there is text, “God doeth all things well”—the meaning of which, after due time, appears to the soul.¹¹

NHPRC Helps to Sustain the Profession

NHPRC has been responsive to the needs of scholars and the changing interests in scholarship from its beginning. Members of the NHPRC encouraged the creation of ADE. They have shepherded the organization as it has expanded. NHPRC has worked with editors to deal with the demands and costs incurred by print publication, frequently through grants made to the university presses that publish the documents. The NHPRC has been in the forefront of providing education to neophyte editors through its summer Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents, which for the past forty years has introduced hundreds of documentary editors to the best practices of the profession, including myself almost twenty years ago. The NHPRC is the linchpin that holds our projects together. Many documentary editions would cease to exist without funding. New projects will never see the light of day without increased funding to get them off the ground.

A Digital Generation: Reaching New Audiences

Many editors are now retooling in order to meet the demands of both print and digital publication. In order to respond to this new digital world, editors look to organizations such as the NHPRC to provide guidelines, insights, technology, and the critically important funding to enable this to happen. NHPRC has been a longtime and enthusiastic supporter of the notion that editors should aim to digitize their documents, beginning with their efforts in the 1990s to support a pilot project of digital editions called the Model Editions Partnership. But that was

¹¹ Walt Whitman to Mrs. Irwin, 1 May 1865. To see more, go to the Walt Whitman Archive at <http://whitmanarchive.org>

just a beginning. NHPRC could not support the project as the underlying technology evolved and they did not have the funds to sustain the effort. New efforts will need new support. An increase in its funding will enable NHPRC to lead the way in cutting edge technology and work with editors to establish new standards and assist them with adopting new methods. There is substantial work to be done on digitizing and providing additional editorial work to make the thousands of rolls of microfilm from projects done in the 1960s and 1970s available on the Internet.

In a recent poll of our membership, over 80 percent of the members expressed a desire for advanced training and seminars that will provide them the needed skills for digital publishing. Because the ADE is a volunteer organization with a Council that meets only once a year, we do not have the resources to respond to this expressed need from our membership. We will look to the NHPRC to help us address the increased demands of publishing in both print and digital form, and to help us reach our growing audience via digital publication.

Nonetheless, our mission has changed little over time even with the added challenge of publishing documents on the World Wide Web. Members of the ADE believe that documents that reflect our heritage should be accessible to those who need and want them and that some documents require the fuller treatment and contextualization provided by documentary editors. True accessibility requires that those documents be accurately transcribed, with full transparency of method; that the selection and annotation should reflect sound scholarship and intellectual integrity; that some documents are so significant that they require contextualization in the form of annotation; and that methods of presenting documents, whether in print or electronically, should provide sound methods of intellectual access to the documents.

In its strategic plan formed in the summer of 2008, ADE described itself as being at an "important crossroads." Our plan goes on to say that "much has changed in the documentary editing profession in the past three decades. New methods of publication have emerged; the era of large projects is diminishing; and the number of users of published historical documents has exploded as a result of the web. Many more people are engaged in the practices that we call documentary editing ... Scholars use new and changing tools to produce their work in ways that weren't imaginable when the Association was formed in St. Louis in 1978. ... This is an opportune time to look ahead."

Now is not the moment to cut or reduce the financial support to the NHPRC. We are indeed at a crossroads; this is true not only for the profession of documentary editing, but for archives and repositories world-wide. As we read about the perceived negative impact of the Internet on people as they are increasingly gathering their knowledge through multitasking and sound bites, all of which threaten to shorten our attention spans and shrink our brains, we recognize the urgent need for reliable and rich content on the World Wide Web. Now, more than ever, we want the good to drive out the bad, not the other way around. If we cut off support for the editors and projects that have produced superlative editions for over half a century, we cut off their ability to reach the brand new global audiences via the web in ways we could never have

imagined twenty years ago and are just now beginning to address. Please help us to continue this incredibly important work as we build on the efforts of our predecessors, bringing old and new material to light, for us in the present and for future generations of Americans.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you, Ms. Perdue. I couldn't help but notice that you are not saying that the next step that archivists have go to is tweeting. [Laughter.]

Or even Facebook, maybe. I don't know, Facebook may not be so bad.

Ms. PERDUE. Right. Right.

Ms. NORTON. Let me ask a series of questions that I think will be important for our record. I want to say that while I represent 600,000 taxpaying residents deprived of the right to vote on what is happening on the floor right now, I certainly vote in this committee, and I have a strong interest in the testimony you and the witnesses before you have provided.

Let's start with Dr. Gottlieb. Could you explain the impact of the grants, the NHPRC grants, on the employment of archivists across the country? Do you have any sense of whether archivists, for example, are the first to go in budget cuts, the effect that the present recession has had on them or what it would mean in terms of jobs if this funding were available?

Dr. GOTTLIEB. In my experience, NHPRC grants almost always create new positions, new jobs to carry out the work that the recipients of the grants have committed to do. The critical resource that archives lack, and the reason that NHPRC is so important to them, is funding for staff to examine records, to organize them, to preserve them, to scribe them so that they can be easily used.

Archives, generally speaking, don't buy expensive equipment. We don't need NHPRC to build buildings for us or to rent space for us. What we need the grants for, and the work that the grants help us do, is to make the records accessible; and for that the critical resource is people, is staff. So these grants, in many, many cases, create jobs.

Ms. NORTON. This is a labor sensitive matter, then. We are talking about people, not things.

Ms. FRANCO, you are aware that some have said that the NHPRC is wasteful and redundant. I wonder what your response to that would be and whether you think there are the sources of support at the State and local level for the kinds of projects that the NHPRC grants make possible.

Ms. FRANCO. Well, I would say that there are obviously other funding sources, but they do not cover the kind of work that is covered by NHPRC, and—

Ms. NORTON. They don't cover it, the States' fund don't cover the same kinds of work?

Ms. FRANCO. Well, I can tell you that in Pennsylvania the availability of funding for help for local governments, for other archival groups, and for our own collections is not there, so we really do rely on that national level.

I know that there was some discussion in the previous panels about the difference between IMLS and NEH and some of the other Federal funding programs. I think one of the things about NHPRC is this is the nuts and bolts; this is the basic stuff. I can tell you that in our organization, our archives, and I think this is repeated, there are backlogs of boxes of records that are there being saved, but they are not available to the public because they haven't been processed, they haven't been described.

So the need to bring the documents that we hold into a format that they can be used is not the stuff of excitement; it is not the kind of thing that granting agencies foundations are funding. This is the nuts and bolts of our historical record, and NHPRC is the one place that comes from. Other places will do projects, they will do exhibits, they will do other kinds of things like that, but you can't get to those products unless you have the records available to scholars and people who are doing that work.

Ms. NORTON. Ms. Teague, a number of you have indicated examples of work that has been funded through these grants. Are there, in your view, examples of works that simply could not or would not have been done except for such grants?

Ms. TEAGUE. Oh, absolutely. That is especially true in my State of Kentucky. We have been the beneficiary of several NHPRC grants over the past 25 years. One started our electronic records program in 1985, where we started working with State and local governments on electronic records or, as we called them back in the 1980's, machine-readable records, to try to capture the earliest electronic records. So back in Kentucky we have computer records that go back to the 1960's and 1970's, where some other States may not have had that. And that just started with I think it was \$180,000 from the NHPRC.

Currently we have seven staff who are employed working on those issues. We work with State and local governments around the State, around Kentucky. We have a commission where we work with information technology components of State government where we are working with computer records throughout the State. And that really just started with what we like to think of as seed money from the NHPRC, and we were able to grow that into a very large program that is trying to take care of—

Ms. NORTON. Once you had the seed money, how were you able to fund it?

Ms. TEAGUE. We talked to the legislature back in the 1980's and we were able to add a couple more positions to the State archives so that we could work with State government and local governments for electronic records. So we really have a very good electronic records program now that has been in existence for 25 years because of NHPRC.

We also had, as I mentioned earlier, our local records program, which many other States have also copied, where we give grants to local governments to reformat records, to do some preservation work, to do research through genealogy, and that never would have happened without NHPRC money. So that is where we have given out \$16 million in grants in Kentucky just because NHPRC gave us \$200,000 in 1983.

We have also had several instances around the State that have come through the State Historical Records Advisory Board that were recommended by our State board to NHPRC and then were funded by NHPRC, including we recently had a grant to our local cooperative, Apple Shop, which is in Whitesburg, KY. They did some early mountain television programs where they went out and captured folk life, people quilting, people singing, playing with dulcimers. So some of the video from the 1960's has actually been

digitized and made available through a grant from NHPRC. So there are so many things just in my State.

Another thing that NHPRC does for all of us, for the State archives and the State boards, is we have planning money from NHPRC to work with the State Historical Records Advisory Board so that we can actually make plans for the priorities within our State. You know, we don't really want Washington to tell us what to do in Kentucky every instance; we want to make our own plans. We want to look and see what the needs are in Kentucky.

For one thing, we have a lot of religious communities. We have several Catholic Mother Houses in Kentucky, so we want to work with them; their records are very interesting. They have a lot of school records, records of the people that were in their community. So there are things like that the Mount St. Joseph Archives might not be able to apply for an NHPRC grant, but they could come to the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board for advice and assistance, which is one reason we are interested in these pass-through grants as another program that NHPRC could operate for the benefit of the States.

Ms. NORTON. That is very helpful, Ms. Teague, particularly your discussion of seed money and planning money. You know, when seed money grows money for the State, that is something that the Congress has to be aware of, that it is encouraging other money. When you were asked or when prior witnesses were asked, you know, isn't there some other money, well, if the Federal Government leads by example, maybe there will be other money. The notion of planning money is very important. Those are small amounts yielding a great deal.

Ms. Minchew, now, you are a local archivist, and some, particularly coming from some parts of the country that want the Federal Government involved in defense only, I suppose we ought to be able to answer the question why should Federal money go all the way down to the local level to fund preservation of local records. Would you like to comment on that?

Ms. MINCHEW. Certainly. Several reasons. One is that the local records, in most cases, most directly document the lives of the citizens of the United States. So we have had a grant documenting 19th century court records. Those document the lives of thousands of citizens in Troup County that are very much representative of citizens across the country.

Another reason is, to use the current example of the oil spill in the Gulf, if we were to save only the records of the Federal Government from this crisis, and not save any of the records of the numerous local governments affected by this crisis and how these local governments are facing the crisis right now, we will only get maybe half the story; maybe not that much of the story. So it is the full picture that gives the historians the stuff to work with and the chance to be accurate in their histories that they write.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you very much, Ms. Minchew.

Finally, Ms. Perdue, I wonder if you could briefly describe documentary editing. What is that and why are the grants of the Commission so important for funding it?

Ms. PERDUE. I tried to convey a bit of the overview of what it is in my short statement, but I touch on it more in depth in the

longer testimony. It really is a process of making these documents accessible and understandable to users. In some cases documents have foreign language, have code or cipher, and most users would never be able to use them without the work editors do.

What was the second part of the question?

Ms. NORTON. Why they are critical for Commission support in particular, if you think they are. Would they be supported otherwise?

Ms. PERDUE. Well, I can say that, just generally speaking, most projects do not rely on NHPRC alone; they couldn't rely on the grants. The grants are not that large. Most of the projects that I am familiar with have staffs of at least five people, and an NHPRC grant may pay for the salary of only a part of that staff. They also obtain a combination of grants from other organizations, such as NEH. They may look to private foundations. But no single foundation or institution is supporting these projects in full.

Ms. NORTON. I am going to ask the chairman if he has any questions. I still should ask him. Mr. Chairman, do you have any questions for these witnesses?

Mr. CLAY. Just let me summarize.

Ms. NORTON. Please do that, sir.

Mr. CLAY. And thank all of the witnesses.

Ms. NORTON. You are in a particular position to do so, having been on the floor voting.

Mr. CLAY. I voted for you too. [Laughter.]

Let me thank all of the witnesses today, all three panels who came and gave their time today and highlighted the importance of the NHPRC. It is invaluable how you document and chronicle the history of this country and we are certainly supportive of those efforts here, and hopefully we will move this bill forward and ensure that we secure additional funding for this valuable agency.

With that, I say thank you.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, would you like me to close the hearing?

Mr. CLAY. Yes.

Ms. NORTON. So ordered. Thank you very much.

[Whereupon, at 5:34 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

[Additional information submitted for the hearing record follows:]

14 June 2010

Congressman William Lacy Clay
First District Missouri
2418 Rayburn Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Clay

I write today to clarify a misconception that I fear may have developed in the course of the June 9, 2010, hearing on the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. In testifying on behalf of the American Historical Association, I filed a disclosure form stating that I had not received funding from the federal government since October 1, 2006. Moreover I noted on this form that the American Historical Association had not received funding from the federal government that amounted to more than 10% of its revenues. Both statements are true.

The facts are as follows:

The American Historical Association received funding from the Department of Education through a subcontract from George Mason University in the following amounts since October 1, 2006:

\$33,096.80 July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
\$58,332.00 July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008
\$70,300.40 July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

The AHA also received \$25,000 in each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2007, 2008, and 2009 for a \$25,000 for a fellowship the AHA sponsors jointly with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Finally, the AHA co-sponsors, with the Library of Congress, the Jameson award, a \$10,000 fellowship. The Library and the AHA each provide \$5000.

Additionally the National History Center, a separate 501(3)c organization housed in the AHA headquarters at 400 A Street, was awarded federal funding in the following amounts since October 1, 2006:

\$170,386 from the National Endowment for the Humanities on September 26, 2007

\$178,023 from the National Endowment for the Humanities on September 12, 2008
 \$ 10,000 for a subcontract with George Mason University from a grant with the U. S.
 Department of Education in 2008
 \$ 10,000 for a subcontract with George Mason University from a grant with the U. S.
 Department of Education in 2009

The first of these grants, to the National History Center in 2007, was mistakenly listed as having been made to the American Historical Association, even though the AHA neither received nor spent any of these funds. To the best of my knowledge there was no such confusion about the second grant, and though the AHA was listed as a co-sponsor, it neither received nor spent any of these funds. On the sub-contracts from the Department of Education that were made to the National History Center, the AHA neither received nor spent any of the funds.

I do not believe that the federal funds received by the National History Center should be included in the total of federal funds received by the American Historical Association. In any case, however, the combined amounts of federal funds awarded to the Center and to the AHA do not amount to the 10% of revenues required for disclosure, since the AHA revenues for the three fiscal years in question are as follows:

\$3,605,971.00 July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007
 \$3,555,655.00 July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008
 \$3,580,147.00 July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

I would appreciate it if you would have this letter made a part of the record of the June 9 hearing. I ask also that the Committee provide AHA with a complete transcript of the hearing at its earliest possible convenience.

Sincerely,

Ira Berlin
 Distinguished University Professor
 University of Maryland

Cc: Barbara D. Metcalf, President, AHA
 Arnita A. Jones, Executive Director, AHA