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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
April 12, 2000

Kerry Paul Reese, Ph.D.  
President  
Idaho Chapter, The Wildlife Society  
2168 Henry Court  
Moscow, Idaho 83843-9533

Dear Kerry:

Thank you for your letter of March 31. I agree that the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is a valuable national resource and is worthy of support even in times of difficult budget constraints.

One of my first acts as a new Member of Congress was to meet with both Steve Guerber, Director of the Idaho State Historical Society, and Rick Ardinger, Administrator of the Idaho Humanities Council, to discuss funding for state humanities programs. In general, I would prefer to see greater portions of the NEH budget going to state humanities councils such as the IHC. These are the organizations best suited to promoting cultural events that will have relevance for members of the community. The Wildlife Society's experience with Dr. Frey is an excellent example.

As you may know, the NEH received an appropriation of \$110 million last year, \$28 million of which went to state humanities councils. As a result of formulas determined at the federal level, the Idaho Humanities Council (IHC) received \$410,000 for Fiscal Year 1999. This year, Congress approved an increase to \$115.7 million with an additional \$800,000 available for matching grants to states. While I supported this funding increase, I felt compelled, for several reasons, to vote against the Omnibus Appropriations Bill of which it was a part. This bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 296 to 135, and was signed into law by President Clinton on November 29, 1999.

Once again, thank you for contacting me. Please continue to keep me informed of your views on issues of importance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Simpson".

Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress

MS:bls