



American Library Association
Association of College and Research Libraries
American Association of Law Libraries

April 20, 2005

The Honorable John W. Olver
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, The
Judiciary, District of Columbia
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Olver:

On behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and the American Library Association (ALA), we write in opposition to the proposed elimination of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) and ask you to instead support a FY 2006 funding level of \$8 million for the NHPRC grants program and an additional \$2 million for staffing and related program administration.

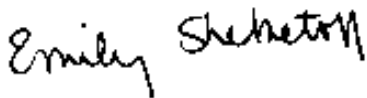
The NHPRC is part of the National Archives and Records Administration and since 1934, has supported a wide range of activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources relating to the history of the United States. Over the past 40 years, the Commission has served as the grant-making arm of the Archives and has awarded over \$153 million to over 4,000 institutions, including many libraries, to preserve and publish important historical records that document American history. In Massachusetts alone, the NPPRC has provided grants for the Springfield City Library, Radcliffe College's Schlesinger Library, Forbes Library in Northampton, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Concord Free Public Library, the Social Law Library in Boston and Boston College's Thomas P. O'Neill Library.

By leveraging private sector contributions with federal funding, the Commission has funded a wide variety of programs, papers, and projects, such as Ken Burn's "The Civil War," one of the most successful public-television miniseries in American history. Moreover, without critical NHPRC funding, the award winning biographies from such noted historians as David McCullough, Michael Beschloss, James Patterson, Joseph Ellis and others might have never found their way to library shelves nationwide.

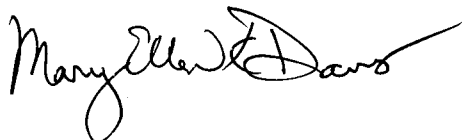
Promoting the preservation and use of America's documentary heritage is essential to understanding our democracy, history, and culture. As the only federal agency charged with this task, the NHPRC has been an essential leader in preserving our nation's history and making it more accessible to the American public.

We ask you to continue the federal government's commitment to this program and its efforts. We also ask you to support a FY 2006 funding level of \$8 million for the NHPRC grants program and an additional \$2 million for staffing and related program administration.

Sincerely,



Emily Sheketoff
Executive Director
American Library Association Washington Office



Mary Ellen Davis
Executive Director
Association of College and Research Libraries



Mary Alice Baish
Associate Washington Affairs Representative
American Association of Law Libraries

The American Library Association (ALA) is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with more than 64,000 members, whose mission is to promote the highest quality library and information services and public access to information.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is a nonprofit educational organization with over 5,000 members nationwide. AALL's mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to the legal and public communities, to foster the profession of law librarianship, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information and information policy.

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) is a division of the American Library Association dedicated to enhancing the ability of academic library and information professionals to serve the information needs of the higher education community and to improve learning, teaching, and research. It represents over 12,400 academic librarians and other interested individuals.