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Turn out the lights at arts, humanities endowments

Samuel Francis is right in his June 7 column, "Better to turn out the lights?"

No matter who is in charge of the National Endowment for the Humanities and its sister agency, the National Endowment for the Arts, as federally funded entities they are bound to become politicized and, therefore, subject to pressure from fashionable political constituencies.

If the Modern Language Association succeeds in dominating NEH, we can expect taxpayer-funded subsidies of unreadable scholarly papers on politically

correct topics, just as NEA subsidizes vulgar and nihilistic art.

Anyone who listens to National Public Radio, especially in the early morning hours, will discover the extent to which a supposedly neutral, publicly financed agency can become politicized over time — in a distinctly leftward direction in the case of NPR.

Moreover, do we really want bureaucrats picking plays and poems at federal expense? The truth is that there is no reason for federal taxpayers to subsidize either

the arts or the humanities, which receive many millions of dollars every year in private, university and state-government support. (There should be an exception, of course, for the Smithsonian and other institutions in the District of Columbia for which the federal government has had a traditional responsibility.)

As Mr. Francis argues, we should sunset the NEH and the NEA, and save federal money for legitimate federal needs.

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