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Museum Services Board (1991): Correspondence 02

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

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December 7, 1987

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing you in regard to the Museum Services Board, the body which determines the program policies of the Institute of Museum Services.

As members of the Institute's authorizing Committee, we are pleased that the Administration has requested funding for the Institute in FY 1988. This acknowledgement of the Institute's important role in the support of our nation's museums is heartening indeed.

It concerns us, however, that the character of the National Museum Services Board has changed over the last few years so that it is no longer as strongly representative of our national museum community as it should be. As this Board is a policy-making body and not advisory or ceremonial in nature, it is of paramount importance that appointees have the strong professional museum credentials which are needed to make it a truly effective body.

A certain number of distinguished patrons and "friends" of museums are welcome, but the majority of Board members should be museum professionals who are the best qualified to make the informed decisions required of them.

We respectfully urge you to appoint individuals from among the large group of distinguished museum professionals who can offer their depth of experience and knowledge of museum operations to the important proceedings of the Museum Services Board.

With regard and respect we are,

Robert T. Staffor

Orrin G. Hatch

Sincerely,

Edward M. Kennedy