

Date

Honorable (Full name)  
House/Senate (district number) District  
District office/Capitol Address

Dear Representative/Senator (last name):

I am concerned that the legacy of Pennsylvania's history and the future of [historic site or program] are threatened. I am writing to urge you to make sure that funding for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) is maintained at least at the current level and Keystone funding for PHMC is restored at the level of \$8 million as requested in the Governor's proposed 2010-2011 Budget.

As you may recall, the Commission portion of the Keystone Fund for this fiscal year was entirely diverted from the PHMC into the general fund. The loss of the Keystone funds, coupled with the cut of nearly \$6 million in PHMC's General Government Operations appropriation, resulted in 108 Commission employees receiving furlough notices last year, the closing of eleven sites and significant program reductions at the remaining sites administered by the PHMC.

Effectively, the cuts meant the loss of nearly 1,000 years of staff experience and the dismantling of the premiere statewide public history organization in the United States. Eleven sites were temporarily closed and the remaining eleven have cut hours and programs to a bare bones level.

Should the Keystone Funds again be diverted to the General Fund in fy2010-2011, the result will be another 30 to 40 furloughs and the closing of the remaining sites, leaving only skeleton crews at sites to secure the Commonwealth's buildings and collections assets.

While I understand the Pennsylvania State budget has critical problems and revenue has not met expectations, the PHMC endured more than its fair share of cuts in fy2009-2010. We urge you to do whatever you can to keep the GGO for the Commission at level funding of \$19.3 million and retain the Keystone Fund at the \$8 million recommended by the Governor's Budget.

We appreciate your support for past PHMC programs and look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

(Signature)