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July 6, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, House of Representatives
The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader, U. S. Senate
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, U. S. Senate
The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader, U. S. House of Representatives
Members of Congress

Dear Madam Speaker, Leaders Reid, McConnell and Boehner and Members of Congress:

As the leaders of the National Women's History Museum Coalition, comprised of women's and girls' organizations representing over 8.5 million members, we urge you to support and pass the National Women's History Museum Act of 2009 (HR 1700) and its Senate companion bill. **The National Women's History Museum Act is long overdue!** Women comprise 51% of our nation's population, yet there is no National Museum in our capital to honor women's achievements and contributions to building this nation.

The National Women's History Museum Act would allow the National Women's History Museum to purchase a vacant site at 12th Street and Independence Avenue SW, adjacent to the National Mall. The site and building costs will be privately funded. This bill would cost the government nothing. All we ask is permission to build a museum to honor of half of the nation's population in a prestigious location.

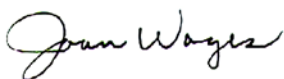
The museums near the National Mall signify the importance of that constituency. That is why Congress has repeatedly voted to create museums in Washington D.C., recognizing that museums near the National Mall educate and inspire visitors from around the country and the world.

Knowledge of one's past is critical to the path one takes in the future. Doris Kearns Goodwin said, "**The past is not simply the past, but a prism through which the subject filters . . . (one's) own changing self image.**" The National Women's History Museum will create a permanent home for thousands of items of historical significance to women and bring women's history out of the darkened archives into the light for all to see.

The National Women's History Museum would provide for the establishment of a museum that would demonstrate the gratitude and respect we owe to the many generations of American women who have helped build, sustain, and advance our society. *Remember that women comprise over half the nation's population and are the mothers of the rest.*

We strongly urge your support and early passage of the National Women's History Museum Act of 2009.

Respectfully,



Joan Bradley Wages, President & CEO
National Women's History Museum



Robin Read, President & CEO
National Foundation for Women Legislators

Carmen Delgado Votaw, Liaison
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women

Linda J. Denny, President & CEO
Women's Business Enterprise National Council

Susan Ebner, President
Women In Defense

Joyce M. Roche, President & CEO
Girls, Inc.

Randall Moody, Manager of Federal Advocacy
National Education Association

Diane Shust, Director of Government Relations
National Education Association

Alma Morales Riojas, President
MANA-A National Latina Organization

Deborah L. Frett, CEO
Business and Professional Women's Foundation

Lisa Alter, President
Girls Learn International

Mimi Lufkin, CEO
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity

Ashley B. Carson, Executive Director
OWL - The Voice of Midlife and Older Women

Linda D. Hallman, CAE, Executive Director
American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Sue Webster, National President
Federally Employed Women

Melissa J. Houghton, Executive Director
Women In Film and Video

Merrie Scott, President
Women in Aerospace

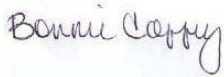
Marsha Shuler, President
National Federation of Press Women, Inc.

Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq., National Chair
National Congress of Black Women, Inc.

Rose M. Ditto, International President
General Federation of Women's Clubs

James Rettig, President
American Library Association

Audrey Sheppard, President
Sewall-Belmont House and Museum



Bonnie Coffey, President
National Association of Commissions for Women



Wendy Lopez, President
National Association of Women Business Owners



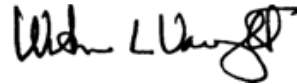
Deborah L. Hughes, Executive Director
The Susan B. Anthony House



Ada Nivia Lopez, President
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Antoinette Samuel, Executive Director
American Society for Public Administration-Section for Women in Public Administration



Wilma L. Vaught, Brigadier General USAF (Ret.),
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Marsha Firestone, Ph.D., President & Founder
Women Presidents' Organization



Linda C. Smith, President
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Dorothy I. Height, Chair/President Emerita
National Council of Negro Women, Inc.



Lorrie Kline Kaplan, Executive Director
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