National Women's History Museum
205 S. Whiting Street, Suite 254 | Alexandria, Virginia 22304 | 703.461.1920 | www.nwhm.org
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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 Wages

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

Robin Read

Robin Read, President & CEO
National Foundation for Women Legislators

Carmen Delgado Votaw, Liaison
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women

Susan Ebner, President
Women In Defense

Randall Moody, Manager of Federal Advocacy
National Education Association

Alma Morales Riojas, President
MANA-A National Latina Organization

Lisa Alter, President
Girls Learn International

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

Sue Webster, National President
Federally Employed Women

Merrie Scott, President
Women in Aerospace

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

James Rettig, President
American Library Association

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

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

Diane Shust, Director of Government Relations
National Education Association

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

Mimi Lufkin, CEO
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity

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

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

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

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

Audrey Sheppard, President
Sewall-Belmont House and Museum

Bonnie Coffey, President
National Association of Commissions for Women

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

Antoinette Samuel, Executive Director
American Society for Public Administration-Section for Women in Public Administration

Marsha Firestone, Ph.D., President & Founder
Women Presidents' Organization

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

Wendy Lopez, President
National Association of Women Business Owners

Ada Nivia Lopez, President
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women

Wilma L. Vaught, Brigadier General USAF (Ret.), President
Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Linda C. Smith, President
Association for Library and Information Science Education

Lorrie Kline Kaplan, Executive Director
American College of Nurse Midwives