

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 28, 2010

Honorable Jim DeMint  
340 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator DeMint:

We are writing as cosponsors of S. 2129, the National Women's History Museum Act, to urge you to lift your hold on this bill so that it can pass the Senate by unanimous consent. We take this opportunity to answer some questions that we are informed you may have regarding this Museum.

First, similar bills have passed the Senate by unanimous consent in the two previous Congresses. The only difference with this bill, and bills you have supported in the past, is the proposed location of the Museum. As with the earlier bills, *no taxpayer dollars* would be spent to fund the National Women's History Museum or the construction of the building.

In fact, our bill would authorize the U.S. General Services Administrator to sell, for fair market value, a parcel of undeveloped land at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Independence Ave in the District, currently owned by the agency, to the Museum. Furthermore, once the land is conveyed to the Museum, the bill requires that the Museum begin construction of the building within five years. If the Museum does not comply, then the land reverts back to the General Services Administration.

The federal government would receive money for the land from the Museum, and the Museum would raise all of the funds necessary for the purchase of the property and the construction through private donations. Just last week at a Museum event in Washington, two individuals pledged \$1 million each for the project. Joan Wages, the Museum's President and CEO, has stated that "not one shovel of dirt will be moved until the entire sum needed for construction has been raised."

Second, the Museum would portray all aspects of women's history, and the bipartisan group of women who have written that rich history. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, founders of the Suffrage Movement and Republicans, are front and center on the Museum's website. The "Women Who Ran for President" exhibit prominently features Republicans Elizabeth Dole and Margaret Chase Smith, as well as Democrats Shirley Chisholm and Hillary Clinton. The project also has been endorsed by organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the bipartisan National Foundation for Women Legislators.

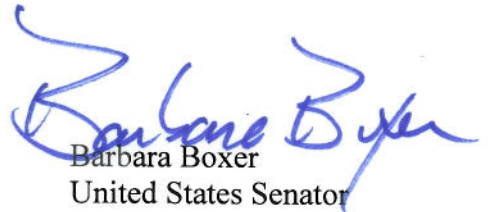
We believe the proposed Women's History Museum is long overdue and will be a fitting and cost effective way to celebrate the role played by our nation's women throughout our

history. We, therefore, respectfully urge you to lift your hold prior to the October recess so this legislation can move forward and be signed by the President.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



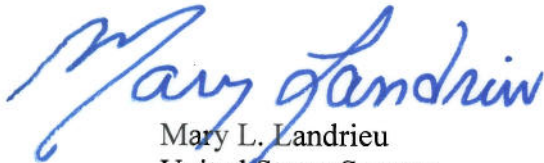
Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



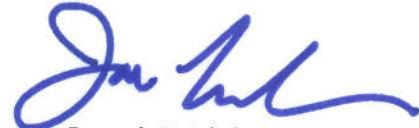
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Kristen E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator



Joseph I. Lieberman  
United States Senator



Blanche L. Lincoln  
United States Senator



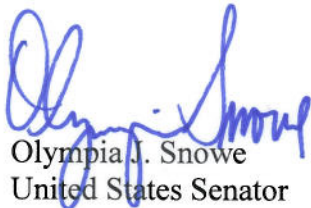
Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Olympia J. Snowe  
United States Senator



Daniel K. Akaka  
United States Senator



Mark Begich  
United States Senator