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November 18, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader, U. S. Senate  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader, U. S. Senate  
U.S. Senators

Dear Leaders Reid, McConnell and U.S. Senators:

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 (S 2129). **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

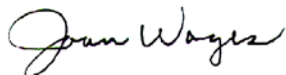
The museums near the National Mall signify the importance of that constituency. That is why Congress has repeatedly voted to create museums in Washington D.C., recognizing that museums near the National Mall educate and inspire visitors from around the country and the world.

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.**

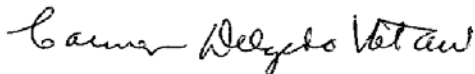
Respectfully,



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.**

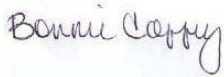
Rose M. Ditto, International President  
**General Federation of Women's Clubs**

James Rettig, President  
**American Library Association**

Audrey Sheppard, President  
**Sewall-Belmont House and Museum**

Helen Han, President & CEO  
**National Association of Women Business Owners**

Wendy Lopez, President  
**National Association of Women Business Owners**



Bonnie Coffey, President  
**National Association of Commissions for Women**



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



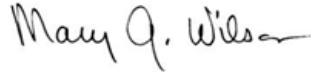
Deborah L. Hughes, Executive Director  
**The Susan B. Anthony House**



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



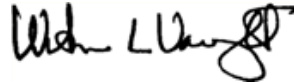
Lorrie Kline Kaplan, Executive Director  
**American College of Nurse Midwives**



Mary G. Wilson, President  
**League of Women Voters**



Ada Nivia Lopez, President  
**National Conference of Puerto Rican Women**



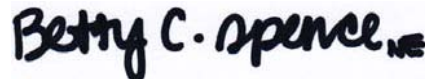
Wilma L. Vaught, Brigadier General USAF (Ret.),  
President  
**Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc.**



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



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



Betty C. Spence, Ph.D., President  
**National Association for Female Executives**



Leigh Wintz, Executive Director  
**Soroptimist International of the Americas**