

# United States Senate

November 22, 2021

Lonnie G. Bunch III  
Secretary  
The Smithsonian Institution  
PO Box 37012  
Washington, DC 20013-7012

Dear Secretary Bunch:

The 116th Congress saw the passage of the creation of two new Smithsonian Museums into law. It comes with great excitement and comfort to have a partner at the helm who oversaw the creation of the extraordinary Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture that opened its doors in September 2016. Further, we applaud you for how quickly your team has begun to work to lay the foundation for both the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum and the National Museum of the American Latino.

As we continue to move through this process, we want to take this opportunity to re-emphasize Congressional intent as stated in the authorizing legislation that both the National Museum of the American Latino and Smithsonian American Women's History Museum be located on or near the National Mall, to the maximum extent practicable. From our perspective, the National Mall is the two-mile park from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, bounded on the north and south by Constitution and Independence Avenues.

With more than 25 million people visiting the National Mall each year, it comes as no surprise that many Smithsonian Institutions have claimed this area their home and best for the diffusion of knowledge. The addition of the two new museums on the Mall will further the Smithsonian's mission by showcasing and highlighting the untold and overlooked contributions to our nation of both women and Latinos. It is fitting that these two museums be prominently located as that will help ensure that more visitors will be able to enjoy and learn from them.

We appreciate your consideration of Congressional priorities as the Smithsonian works to establish these important museums. We look forward to working together and having a continued dialogue on how best to meet this intent.

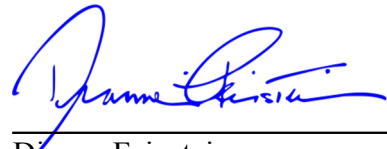
Sincerely,

cc: Smithsonian Board of Regents

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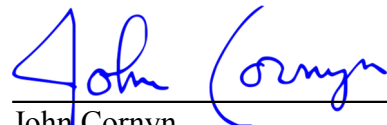
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



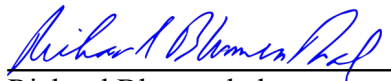
John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



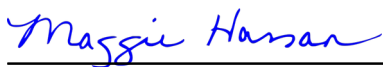
Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



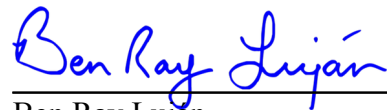
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator

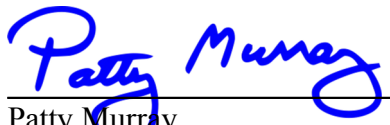
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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



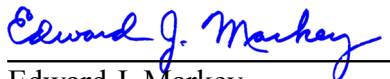
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



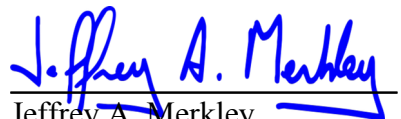
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator