

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 7, 2019

Chairman Jon Parrish Peede
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Chairman Peede:

We write in support of the application submitted by the Town of Kittery, Maine, for the renovation and expansion of the Rice Public Library. The Challenge Grant, combined with private fundraising and a municipal bond, would help transform one of Maine's historic treasures, the 1888 Rice Building, into a 21st-century library and "humanities hub" for the Kittery community.

The Rice Library is one of the most active libraries in the state, offering more than 400 programs for adults and children each year. It supports a thriving poetry program and has taken a lead role in sponsoring community discussions on social justice issues. With expanded space, an elevator, and all programs housed in one building, the Library would be well-positioned to extend its already robust humanities programming well into the future.

The Rice Library expansion project is a perfect example of how NEH funding can leverage humanities projects in a local community. The NEH grant would not only help to fund this particular project, but would also serve as a catalyst for attracting private sources of humanities funding.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of the Town of Kittery. We urge your consideration of this application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify [REDACTED] when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator