What can you do to protect the South Dakota Humanities Council?

We need every humanities supporter to make their voice heard. Here are concrete, effective actions you can take now:

STEP 1: Call or message our congressional leadership:

- Senator John Thune: (202) 224-2321
- Senator Mike Rounds: (202) 224-5842
- Representative Dusty Johnson: (202) 225-2801

You can use the SDHC script and talking points.

STEP 2: Call or message your state and local elected officials and let them know how this loss of funds will impact your community. Click here to find your SD legislators.

STEP 3: Share our social media call to action post, then send it directly to five people in your network and ask them to take action as well.

Script for Contacting Elected Officials

Save the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

As a constituent from **[town in SD]**, I am **[writing/calling]** to urgently request that you support the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the face of the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) attempt to substantially reduce its staff, cut the agency's grant programs, and rescind grants that have already been awarded.

NEH is the only agency that funds our nation's 56 state and jurisdictional humanities councils, which provide vital cultural services and critical funding to local nonprofit organizations across the nation.

The South Dakota Humanities Council receives roughly $950,000 from the federal government, which is 73% of their operating budget. The loss of NEH funding to humanities councils will **decimate** the South Dakota Humanities Council, eliminating programs that are essential to our region's cultural infrastructure.

Every Congress for 50 years has supported the state humanities councils and their effective distribution of federal dollars across America. These funds go directly to states (and your district) and allow councils to raise $2 in private investment for every federal dollar spent.

Again, I urge you to protect NEH and NEH funding for humanities councils.