

Template

Group Letter to Congressional Member signed at Installation Workshop

(Date)

(Congressional Member)

(Address)

(City, State)

Dear (Name):

We're gathered today in (first community on tour) to install the traveling exhibition, (exhibition name), and to welcome the Smithsonian to (state)! The exhibition, along with a vast array of educational programs, will tour (state) thanks, in part, to your support of Museum on Main Street, a partnership of the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide.

In conjunction with the (state humanities council), we've planned a variety of locally-directed public events that feature our own histories and heritage. And the rare opportunity of hosting the Smithsonian gives us an added chance to shine. (Exhibition name), an exhibition about (brief description) will tour the communities of (name towns) during (year). We're proud of our preparation to date and hope that you will be able to attend one or more (state) sites throughout the year.

Museum on Main Street is expressly designed to deliver Smithsonian exhibitions and high-quality educational events to underserved rural communities. This is the first time we've hosted the Smithsonian in our communities. In addition, we're able to meet with national museum professionals that assist us in all aspects of institutional readiness, from marketing to docent training, fund raising to program planning.

We're enclosing the state itinerary of the (exhibit name) tour. Over the coming year you can expect to see additional information on the numerous public initiatives that we've planned, including: (bullet some sample state/local projects).

Please know how much we appreciate your support of Museum on Main Street through the Smithsonian Institution and through state humanities councils via the National Endowment for the Humanities. Without this initiative, rural communities such as ours would not have this special opportunity.

Sincerely,

(Group signatures, representing participating communities)