

## Group Letter to Congressional Member signed at State Program Workshop

(Date)

(Congressional Member)

(Address)

(City, State)

Dear (Name):

This year, museums in our communities will have the rare and privileged opportunity to host a Smithsonian traveling exhibition entitled (exhibit name). This would not have been possible without the support that you and other members of Congress have shown for Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and state humanities councils nationwide. As the coordinators for this project in our respective communities, we thank you for helping make this exhibition outreach project possible.

(Exhibit name) is an exhibition and series of public programs tailored to the needs of rural communities. Small museums and other cultural organizations in (state) often lack the staff and financial resources necessary to host major exhibitions that are routinely available to large urban institutions. The (state) tour of (exhibition title) is the first opportunity we have had to bring Smithsonian-quality exhibitions to our towns. While the exhibition will be the main attraction, it gives us an opportunity to create local programs such as (list types of events such as oral history initiatives, lecture series, school outreach etc). The (state humanities council) is working with each of us to make these programs possible.

We have already learned much from our national colleagues with Museum on Main Street. The workshop we're gathered at today gave us a chance to exchange ideas and learn from one another, but it also provided us with valuable information that will improve our organizations locally.

With this letter we've enclosed the itinerary for the (state) (exhibition title) tour. We are hopeful that your schedule will allow you to attend the opening ceremonies at one or more of our communities. We will send you personal invitations and keep you informed of the other events that accompany the exhibition.

We realize that projects such as Museum on Main Street require federal financial support. We also understand that this project is made possible through congressional appropriations to the Smithsonian Institution and to the state humanities councils, via the National Endowment for the Humanities. We want you to know how grateful we are for the opportunity that you've helped make possible for us.

Sincerely,

(Group signatures, representing participating communities)