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April 1, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC), a National CoSponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2008, is the national membership organization supporting conservation professionals in preserving our cultural heritage. We accomplish our goals by providing educational opportunities, establishing and upholding professional standards, promoting research and publications, and fostering the exchange of knowledge among conservators, allied professionals, and the public.

Founded in 1972, AIC's mission is to advance the practice and promote the importance of the preservation of cultural material as a means toward a deeper understanding of our shared humanity. AIC plays a growing national leadership role as it expands its services to the field and serves a membership that has grown from fewer than 500 members at the time of its founding to more than 3,500 today.

We join our colleagues in urging the 110th Congress to support legislation to promote the arts and protect our national heritage. By supporting an increase for the Office of Museum Services within IMLS, you will be providing critical support for the museums that care for our national heritage. The recent increases in funding to the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities are an important vote of confidence, yet even greater investments in these two agencies will further promote and protect our nation's art and culture.

Thank you for your actions to save our cultural heritage for future generations.

Sincerely,

Eryl P. Wentworth
Executive Director