



January 22, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the Society of American Archivists, an organization that represents more than 5,500 archivists across the nation, I write to thank you for your actions yesterday that – in important ways – helped to restore transparency and openness to the government of the United States.

In particular we are grateful for your revocation of Executive Order 13233. As you may know, the Society of American Archivists has long objected publicly to EO 13233 and supports Congressional efforts (through the Presidential Records Reform Act) to vacate that order by statute.

In support of your efforts to ensure timely and appropriate access to government records, we look forward to the nomination of a new Archivist of the United States to replace Dr. Allen Weinstein, who resigned unexpectedly in December for health reasons. We believe that appointment of an individual with archival knowledge and training and a proven record of success within the discipline of archives management will be a great asset in moving forward your agenda of government openness and transparency.

We have shared with your transition team “A New Archivist of the United States: Qualities of a Successful Candidate,” a document developed in coalition with several national archives, records management, and history organizations. Please call upon us at any time to assist in ensuring that an appropriate individual is selected from among the ranks of our nation’s archives community to serve in this important office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Boles', written in a cursive style.

Frank Boles, PhD
President, 2008-2009

cc: Don Gips, White House Personnel Office