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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

January 9, 2013

Chairwoman Carol Mattocks
Board of Trustees
Craven Community College
800 College Court
New Bern, NC 28562

Dear Chairwoman Mattocks and Board of Trustees:

It has come to my attention that Craven Community College applied for, and has now been awarded, a grant through the National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) *Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys* program. As a grantee, Craven Community College will soon receive 25 books and a DVD "that introduces Muslim cultures to Americans, and will deepen public understanding of the rich cultural heritage, and the pluralism of cultural forms and traditions, associated with Islamic civilizations around the world."

According to NEH program guidelines, in return for receiving the grant, the Craven Community College library is "required to organize programs that introduce the books and the Muslim Journeys themes to the library's patrons and the broader community." The library is also required to add the books provided with the grant to its circulating collection. Book titles include: "The Butterfly Mosque: A Young American Woman's Journey to Love and Islam", "The Story of the Qur'an", "Muhammad", and "A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America."

It is appalling to me that a federal agency like NEH is wasting taxpayer money on programs like this. It makes zero sense for the U.S. government to borrow money from China in order to promote "the rich cultural heritage of Islamic civilizations." That is one reason why I have consistently opposed and voted against the bills that fund the National Endowment for the Humanities, and its sister organization, the National Endowment for the Arts.

That being said, I note that the Craven Community College Board of Trustees maintains a set of official policies that govern administration of the college. "Library Policy – BP 4.4" states that the college will "provide quality library services for its patrons that include current, diverse, and balanced resources."

In keeping with the college's policy to provide library patrons with a balanced perspective, I am writing to request that you give equal exposure to resources that deepen the public's understanding of Christianity and America's rich Judeo-Christian heritage. To assist you in this regard, I have taken the liberty of reaching out to Mr. Jerry Schill, Chairman of the

Craven-Pamlico Christian Coalition. The Christian Coalition has graciously agreed to donate – at no cost to the college – 25 books on these topics for the library to include in its circulating collection. They would also be happy to assist the college in organizing a public event to introduce the books to the community – the same type of event which the college committed to hold for the introduction of NEH’s Islamic books.

I have asked Mr. Schill to contact you in the coming days to discuss the Coalition’s generous offer. If the college intends to accept the NEH Muslim Journeys Bookshelf grant, I trust that you and the board would agree that your own policy requires it to also accept a donation of resources on Christianity and America’s Judeo-Christian roots. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter B. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "J".

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress