

Sample letter to Congressman Oberstar

The Honorable James Oberstar
231 Federal Building
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Representative Oberstar:

The National Women's History Act of 2005 (S. 501) is pending in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The United States Senate passed this bill on July 29, 2005 by unanimous consent.

As a strong supporter of this Museum, I am concerned and upset that the legislation has not yet moved forward in the House. This bill would give a long overdue home to the National Women's History Museum.

The National Women's History Museum Act directs GSA to enter into a long-term lease with NWHM for a Federal Building that has been vacant since 1992. This site is a commercial retail building known as the Pavilion Annex that is next door to the Old Post Office Building on Pennsylvania Avenue. It is estimated that this Museum would draw over 1.5 million visitors to this now vacant, unused site.

Please do whatever is in your power to move this bill forward and give the women a home! Congress has repeatedly voted to create museums in Washington D.C. commemorating art, buildings, crafts, technology, textiles, space flight, and groups such as law enforcement officers, military, victims of the Holocaust, African-Americans, and Native Americans, to name just a few recent examples. In addition to building sites, many of these museums have received millions of dollars in federal funding. Unlike these other museums, NWHM will pay fair market value for the site yet has met with resistance. Do the women, comprising 52% of our population, deserve any less recognition than these other groups?

Many women should be recognized for their extraordinary accomplishments. This museum will showcase the full history of U. S. women for their contributions in the marketplace, the laboratory, government, entertainment, education, the home and community among others. The part women have played in American history is grossly underrepresented here in our Nation's Capital, a city of symbols. This Museum will help send a message nationwide and worldwide and become a shining symbol of our country's honor and respect for women.

I will be watching for your support for The National Women's History Museum Act of 2005. Please let me hear back from you.