

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
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(503) 725-4616

facsimile transmittal

To: Gov. Atiyeh Fax: 503-224-3209
From: Chuck Johnson Date: 11/8/2004
Re: Letter to Sen. Smith Pages: 2
CC:

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply



Gov. Atiyeh,

Thank you for your kindness
in agreeing to contact Sen. Smith.
I apologize for the delay in getting
this to you.

please call me with any questions.
Thank you, again!

-Chuck Johnson
503-725-8918

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR
1979-1987



INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTANT & TRADE

November 12, 2004

**The Honorable Gordon Smith
United States Senate
404 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510-3704
Sent via fax: (202) 228-3997**

Dear Gordon,

Now that Congress is meeting to complete this year's appropriation work, I am writing to respectfully ask that you continue your efforts to secure an important \$750,000 special funding request in the Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bill for Portland State University's *Strategic Initiative on the Middle East: Promoting Business, Political, and Social Opportunities and Understanding*. This would be funded from the Institute of Museum and Library Services account.

As you know, I have been an active advocate of greater cultural understanding and awareness between the peoples of the world. I am very excited that PSU is seeking funding to enhance and increase the accessibility of its Library Collections in the area of Middle Eastern and Judaic Studies. This funding is needed to support the University's academic programs and provide services to businesses seeking to expand work in this increasingly important region. Oregon's industries, particularly the high technology and food industries, have much to contribute to this region of the world, and much to gain from it, as it undergoes rebuilding and reform.

Portland State University's long history of scholarship and creativity in these disciplines, its status in the state as the sole provider of college-level instruction in Arabic and Hebrew, and the Millar Library's extensive existing collections, make it an ideal access point for documents and resource materials that will aid in this understanding. The demand for programs in this area is especially strong and in response, PSU is adding more course offerings. For example, the number of students enrolled in Arabic courses has doubled in the past three years, something that business and foreign policy experts consider vital to our nation's security.

I understand that there are many competing demands for funding and that you have already indicated that you tremendously support this request. I also understand that Congress may, instead of approving an FY 2005 Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bills, approve a continuing resolution. If that is the case, then it would be extremely helpful to the University if report language could be included that explains the importance of this program.

Thank you for your help on this vital issue, your strong support of Portland State University, and for your continuing hard work on our behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Atiyeh".

Victor Atiyeh