

**“The world must be safe for democracy”**  
**PRESERVE AMERICAN HISTORY: AUTHORIZE THE WOODROW WILSON**  
**LIBRARY**

Dear Colleague:

I ask that you join me in cosponsoring legislation that would establish the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in Staunton, Virginia. In studying the life and times of the 28<sup>th</sup> President, we see how Woodrow Wilson affected and continues to influence how the United States responds to national and international crises.

As a statesman, scholar, and President, Woodrow Wilson faced economic crisis, democratic decay, and a world war. Presidential historians agree that World War I, and President Wilson’s leadership, radically altered the role of diplomacy as a tool of foreign policy—a policy that established a new path for America’s role in promoting democracies throughout the world. So too did Wilson’s high-minded ideals craft a legacy that shaped the powers and responsibilities of the Executive Branch in times of war.

As a professor and President of Princeton University, Wilson created a more selective and accountable system for higher education. By instituting curriculum reform, Wilson revolutionized the roles of teachers and students and quickly made Princeton one of the most renowned universities in the world. Due to Wilson’s legacy at Princeton, I am pleased to have the support of current President, Shirley Tilghman, as we seek to establish a presidential library and museum at Wilson’s birthplace in Virginia.

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson went before a joint session of Congress to seek a Declaration of War against Germany, for “The world must be safe for democracy.” Eighty-eight years later, we continue to champion that right of mankind.

In order to increase the awareness and understanding of the life, principles and accomplishments of the 28<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, I ask that you join me in co-sponsoring legislation that will enable the construction of a Presidential Library and Museum dedicated to Woodrow Wilson at his birthplace in Staunton, Virginia.

Specifically, this legislation will make grants from the National Archives for the establishment of a Presidential Library to provide educational and interpretive services to honor the life of Woodrow Wilson. To ensure that a public-private partnership exists, my legislation also mandates that no grant shall be available for the establishment of this library until a private entity has raised at least twice the amount to be allocated by the Congress. Finally, once the library is complete, this legislation states that the Federal government shall have no role or responsibility for the operation of the library.

Should you have any questions or wish to co-sponsor, please contact my staff at 225-5431.