ROOSEVELT
INSTITUTE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

BY

ANNA ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE ROOSEVELT INSTITUTE

Chairman Mica, Chairman Issa, Chairman Gowdy, Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Anna Eleanor Roosevelt. I am Chair of the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Institute, which is the nonprofit partner to FDR Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York. I have been a member of the Roosevelt Institute board for more than thirty years, and I have been the Board Chair for a little more than a year now. In my professional life, I am the head of Global Corporate Citizenship for The Boeing Company, and serve as the company's representative on the Board of The National Archives Foundation.

The FDR Presidential Library and Museum is the nation's first presidential library. Prior to Franklin D. Roosevelt's decision to build the Library in Hyde Park, the final disposition of presidential papers was left to chance. President Roosevelt created an institution to preserve intact all his papers and related materials so that the nation could make use of the knowledge and experience contained there. The Library's holdings include my grandfather's personal and family papers, the papers covering his public career at the state and national level, my grandmother's papers, as well as those of many of their friends and associates. It is a treasure trove of material that captures an era in American history from many perspectives and directions.

At its dedication, President Roosevelt remarked:

> The dedication of a Library is in itself an act of faith. To bring together the records of the past and . . . preserve them for the use of men and women living in the future, a nation must believe in three things. It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment for the creation of the future. *(June 30, 1941)*

The Library was built with privately donated funds, at a cost of $376,000, and then turned over to the federal government on July 4, 1940 to be operated by the National Archives. By his actions, President Roosevelt ensured that his papers would become the property of the nation and be housed in a library on the grounds of his Hyde Park estate where they would be available to scholars. My grandfather's creation served as a precedent.

The Roosevelt Institute supports the Library's exhibits, its outreach and educational activities, and its special programs for wide ranging audiences. We understand our mission to be to preserve, celebrate, and carry forward the legacy and values of my grandparents. An important part of that mission is our partnership with the FDR Presidential Library.

In 2003, the Roosevelt Institute joined the National Archives and the National Park Service in opening The Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, which serves as a joint visitor center for the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site and Roosevelt Presidential Library, and as a conference and education center. It is also a valuable community resource used by hundreds of nonprofit organizations for meetings and events.

The Wallace Center was constructed through a unique public-private partnership between the National Archives and Records Administration, the National Park Service and the Roosevelt Institute, which raised substantial private funding in support of the project.

The Roosevelt Institute supports all four of the Library's main program areas on an on-going basis: archives, museum, education, and public programs. The Library's research operations are consistently one of the busiest in the entire presidential library system. In FY 2010, the Library served 1,353 on-site researchers and 2,044 researchers who

contacted the Library through written request, mostly via e-mail. The Roosevelt Institute provides annual grants-in-aid to researchers demonstrating new scholarship in the study of the Roosevelt Era as well as assists the Library in purchasing new books for the collection. We are working with the Library to secure the necessary funding to digitize and make available online some of the most important documents in their collection.

Since the opening of the FDR Library's William J. vanden Heuvel Special Exhibitions Gallery in 2003 the Roosevelt Institute has provided more than $1,000,000 to support changing exhibits in that gallery, along with enhancements/improvements to the Library's permanent exhibits.

This money made it possible for the Library to purchase high-quality exhibit casework for the Special Exhibitions Gallery and to present the following special exhibits: *FDR's "Act of Faith": America's First Presidential Library; "This Great Nation Will Endure": Photographs of the Great Depression*; *"Freedom From Fear": FDR, Commander in Chief*; *"Action and Action Now": FDR's First 100 Days*; and *"Our Plain Duty": FDR and America's Social Security.*

The Institute has also provided $5,500,000 to create an exciting new permanent exhibition at the FDR Library. This new exhibition—the first complete renovation of the Museum's permanent exhibition in the Library's history—will employ state-of-the-art technology to bring the story of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations of Americans. The new permanent exhibition is currently being designed and is scheduled to open in the spring of 2013.

The Roosevelt Presidential Library offers document-based, curriculum-centered education programs for students ranging from the second grade to post-graduate level, including the United States Military Academy at West Point. More than 13,000 students participate in the education programs each year, and much of the funding for these programs is provided by the Roosevelt Institute.

The Library conducts 25 teacher workshops each year, attended by hundreds of teachers from across the United States and from more than a half a dozen countries. There is only

one full time Education Specialist who is provided by the government. The Roosevelt Institute provides the remaining support to the Roosevelt Presidential Library's Education Department annually. This support is critical to the operation of the Library's Education Department as it provides the funds necessary to hire four part-time, New York State certified, retired teachers and one part-time education clerk, and to produce quality education materials that are used by students and teachers in the Hudson Valley, the Tri-State area and across the United States.

The internship program at the Roosevelt Library has evolved into a unique educational experience for students of varied backgrounds and interests. The Library offers paid internships in the summer though the financial support of the Roosevelt Institute. The intern experience at the Roosevelt Library helps students to broaden their historical perspective, and give them an opportunity to work in the creative process of history, while encouraging them to learn more about Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Public programs and community outreach are at the core of the Library's mission. The Library offers a host of innovative programs and events for the general public each year. These events include author talks and book signings, lectures, conferences and panel discussions, historical encampments, films and music programs grounded in the Roosevelt era. The Library is able to develop, publicize, and implement this full calendar of popular public programs through the financial support of Roosevelt Institute. In addition, the Roosevelt Institute co-sponsors many Library programs and conferences on significant historical and contemporary issues.

In sum, the work of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum – and of presidential libraries generally – is critically important for retaining and advancing the public's understanding of the nation's history and for making that history available in communities across the country – the places from which our presidents have come. The FDR Library and each of twelve other presidential Libraries, tell the stories of the eras in which their presidents lived and the persons who rose to leadership within them. They make those

stories available to thousands of Americans who do not have the opportunity to come to Washington, DC and to the National Archives on a regular basis, if at all.

As the partner nonprofit organization to the FDR Library, the Roosevelt Institute is pleased to raise support to broaden and deepen the activities of the Library and to extend the availability of its resources for Americans and for those from around the world. It is important to recognize, however, that the Roosevelt Institute can support only a fraction of the costs for the FDR Library. The same is true of the foundation/nonprofit partners to the other presidential Libraries. As a result, continued federal investment in these treasures is essential. And I think it is important to understand that these investments are not support for memorializing specific individuals so much as they are investments that preserve, protect, and promote the broader scope of the history of this country – all of the dimensions of that history: the good and the bad, the successes and the challenges.

I thank the Committees for the opportunity to testify today, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

ROOSEVELT
INSTITUTE

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (known as Anne) is the Chair of the Roosevelt Institute Board of Directors. She is also enterprise wide leader for Boeing's global corporate citizenship, providing philosophical and strategic direction to the enterprise as it engages as a corporate citizen. She also leads a network of U.S. and international community investors, who employ and leverage Boeing's multiple resources to address needs of communities where the company has a business presence.

After earning a Master of Science degree in library science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Roosevelt joined the faculty of Western Kentucky University, where she taught museum studies and worked on the staff of The Kentucky Museum for nearly eight years. In 1983, she moved to Chicago as a freelance collection consultant, and was later named the first director of the Center for Scandinavian Studies at North Park College in Chicago.

In 1987, Roosevelt pursued her lifelong interest in politics, working for the Democratic National Committee. In 1989, she managed Senator Paul Simon's Chicago office and then his successful campaign for re-election in 1990. The following year, Roosevelt served as a consultant on the winning "Daley for Mayor" campaign. In 1991, she became the first executive director of the Museums in the Park, an organization representing the political interests of nine museums located on Chicago Park District land.

From 1996 through 1998, she was director of the Mayor's Office of Program Development for the City of Chicago. From January 1998 to 2001, Roosevelt served as executive director of the Brain Research Foundation, an affiliate of The University of Chicago. When The Boeing Company relocated to Chicago, Roosevelt became director of Community and Education Relations for Boeing's Corporate Offices, and now serves as vice president of Global Corporate Citizenship.

Currently, in addition to leading the Roosevelt Institute, Roosevelt is a trustee of Roosevelt University where she also chairs their advisory committee for the Center for New Deal Studies. She is also a trustee of Spelman College; a member of the advisory boards of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and is a member of the Chicago Sister Cities Casablanca Committee and the Foundation for the National Archives board.

Born in Pasadena, Calif., Roosevelt graduated from Stanford University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in art and art history, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, earning a Master of Science degree in library science.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Truth in Testimony Disclosure

Pursuant to clause 2(g)(5) of House Rule XI, in the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include: (1) a curriculum vitae; and (2) a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness. Such statements, with appropriate redaction to protect the privacy of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(1) Name:
Anna Eleanor Roosevelt

(2) Other than yourself, name of entity you are representing:
The Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Institute

(3) Are you testifying on behalf of an entity other than a Government (federal, state, local) entity?

[X] **YES** **If yes, please provide the information requested below and attach your curriculum vitae.**

[ ] **NO**

(4) Please list the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by you or by the entity you are representing:

$200,000. National Park Service. Save America's Treasures.

$500,000. Federal Highway Administration. Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program Grant.

Anna Roosevelt
Signature

2/22/11
Date