

Dr. Bennet Givens  
University Senate  
119 Independence Hall  
1923 Neil Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210

October 3, 2017

Dear Dr. Givens,

The Committee on Honorary Degrees of the University Senate has carefully reviewed the dossier of Dr. Carla Diane Hayden, Librarian of Congress, for an honorary degree from The Ohio State University. Dr. José O. Díaz, and the faculty of the University Libraries, brought forward the nomination.

On announcing his intent to nominate Dr. Hayden to lead the world's largest library, President Barak H. Obama emphasized that she has "devoted her career to modernizing libraries so that everyone can participate in today's digital culture. She has the proven experience, dedication, and deep knowledge of our nation's libraries to serve our country well." More recently, Time Magazine included Dr. Hayden in its "Women Who are Changing the World" issue.

As Librarian of Congress, Dr. Hayden leads one of the largest and most distinguished research libraries and cultural heritage institutions in the world. Her goal is to advance the Library of Congress as a national library and as a resource for the American people. These are strategic and ambitious goals. Dr. Hayden brings a wealth of experience to this assignment as public library director, scholar, policy advocate, and professional leader. It is noteworthy that she is the first woman, the first African-American, and one of the few librarians who have served as Librarian of Congress since the founding of the library in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In addition to its vast and rich collections, the Library of Congress is also responsible for developing model digital programs to bring these resources to the national and global learning and research communities. The Librarian of Congress also provides administrative oversight for the U.S. Copyright Office, a critical agency supporting and implementing national intellectual property policy and working closely with the international copyright community. Dr. Hayden carries out these duties with vision, deep expertise and experience, and a strong commitment to education and scholarship.

Dr. Hayden has said that "Libraries are a cornerstone of democracy," and indeed an informed citizenry depends upon access to reliable information. At a moment, when the reliability of information continues to be challenged we depend even more upon our libraries. We are indeed comforted to know that Dr. Carla D. Hayden, a persuasive advocate for libraries and freedom of information, is the leader of the most prominent library in the United States.

By a unanimous vote, the Committee on Honorary Degrees recommends that Dr. Carla D. Hayden's dossier be forwarded to the University Senate for their consideration, and recommends the title of Doctorate of Humane Letters *honoris causa*.

Respectfully submitted,

*José O. Díaz*

Jose O. Diaz, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Chair, Senate Honorary Degrees Committee