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March 11, 1993

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MICHAEL V. ROTELLO
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 67TH DISTRICT

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

MAR 15 1993

Mr. Winston Tabb, Panel Moderator
National Film Preservation Board Hearings
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

MOTION PICTURE, BROADCASTING
AND RECORDED SOUND DIVISION

Dear Mr. Tabb:

I am a member of the Committee for Film Preservation and Public Access. I'm writing concerning access problems to publicly preserved films. Problems that seemed to be caused by existing donor agreements between the major studios and the various film archives, the Library of Congress in particular.

As an avid collector of movie memorabilia and films from the past, my interest as a member of this committee is to support measures that ensure further access to publicly preserved films. I am a member of the Illinois General Assembly and approach this issue from a governmental perspective. As a State Legislator, I understand the need to protect taxpayer dollars from use to support special interests. Revenues collected from taxpayers for a specific purpose must be allocated to allow them access to the benefits.

I firmly believe that publicly funded preservation without future, unrestricted availability of preserved films is a gross misuse of taxpayer dollars. Federal legislation to limit the term of donor control must be approved by Congress. This legislation should mandate that all Federal funding of film preservation be contingent upon eventual public access to the preserved films after their copyrights have expired. Furthermore, revenue collected from such access should be channeled back into the efforts of film preservation, thereby reducing the current levels of needed preservation funding.

I appreciate this opportunity to express my concerns and hope you will give our committee's recommendations serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael V. Rotello in black ink.
Michael V. Rotello