

FINCA VIGÍA
FOUNDATION, INC.

www.fincafoundation.org

September 28, 2005

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We the undersigned writers and poets support the license application that has been submitted to the Treasury Department by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Hemingway Preservation Foundation, Inc., to conduct architectural research and restoration work at Ernest Hemingway's home in San Francisco de Paula, Cuba.

We believe that the Hemingway home, *Finca Vigía*, like Mark Twain's home in Hartford, CT, and William Faulkner's in Oxford, MS, is a vitally important literary and cultural landmark that must be saved for future generations. It celebrates the life of one of America's most important authors and is the only American cultural site that the Cuban government operates as a museum. The *Finca* must be available to future Americans and Cubans – and to readers around the world – so that they can fully appreciate Ernest Hemingway and his unique contribution to American and world literature.

We do not consider this a political issue. We take no position on policies that the United States has established toward Cuba. This program lies outside the conflict and politics that divide our two countries. As writers, our position is simple and clear: it is imperative that *Finca Vigía* and all its important papers, books, photographs and memorabilia of Ernest Hemingway not be lost forever.

Respectfully,

Walter Ablish	Andre Dubus III	Swanee Hunt	Walter Mosley
Russell Banks	Louise Erdrich	John Irving	Paul Muldoon
Louis Begley	Martin Espada	Justin Kaplan	Toby Olsen
Elizabeth Benedict	Jonathan Safran Foer	Edmund Keeley	Jay Parini
Anne Bernays	Richard Ford	William Kennedy	Ann Patchett
Sven Birkerts	Jonathan Galassi	Barbara Kingsolver	Richard Price
David Black	Nancy Geary	Chang-rae Lee	Bino A. Realuyo
Craig Boreth	Doris Kearns Goodwin	Don Lee	Salman Rushdie
David Bradley	Richard Goodwin	Margot Livesey	Richard Russo
Ken Burns	Allan Gurganus	Norman Mailer	Joanna Scott
Colin Channer	Jessica Hagedorn	Terry McCoy	Patti Smith
Robert Coover	James W. Hall	Mary McGuckian	Scott Spencer
Michael Cunningham	Daniel Halpern	Christopher Merrill	Frederic Tuten
Don DeLillo	Jennifer Haigh	Mark Mirsky	Bruce Weigl
Roddy Doyle	Israel Horowitz	Rick Moody	Eliot Weinberger
	Maureen Howard	Bradford Morrow	Edmund White