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September 20, 1996

Senator Slade Gorton
Chairman
Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Slade:

As you enter the final stages of negotiations on funding levels for programs included in the Interior appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997, we wanted to bring your attention to a matter of great importance to us. We would like to request that you consider including appropriations for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) at least at last year's levels of $99.494 for the NEA and $110 for the NEH. Maintaining funding for these agencies at last year's levels will enable each to continue the work of increasing access and availability of the arts and humanities in each of our States. As you know, this issue is one of great concern to many Senators, on both sides of the aisle.

We recognize the pressure you are under and appreciate your considering this request. If you have any questions, please contact either of us directly.

Sincerely,

James M. Jeffords

Claiborne Pell