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Claiborne Pell

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June 10, 1981

Mr. Hal Freedman
474 Greenwich Street
New York, N.Y. 10013

Dear Mr. Freedman:

Thank you very much for your recent letter in regard
to the proposed cut in the budget of the National Endow-
ment for the Arts.

I am proud of the role I have played in helping de-
velop programs in the arts and humanities during the eleven
years that I served as Chairman of the Senate Subcommitteee
on Education, Arts and Humanities. These unique programs
have had an undeniably significant impact on the quality
of all our lives. I am very concerned indeed about the
effect that the proposed cuts would have in curtailig
the highly successful federal involvement with our nationâ€™s
artists, scholars, and cultural institutions.

As you may know, I recently voted against passage
of the Senate budget resolution which set forth cuts
evener deeper than those advocated by the Reagan Adminis-
tration. One of the reasons I did this was my deep con-
cern that the 50% reduction in the arts was too drastic
and severe. Even though my position did not prevail, I
shall continue working hard to secure adequate funding
for this area, which is so vital to the human spirit and
quality of life.

Thank you again for writing me. I certainly appro-
ciate knowing your views and will be sure to keep them
in mind while the Congress continues its consideration
of the budget.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

AC/fb

Claiborne Pell