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Claiborne Pell

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Endowment

November 19, 1982

Mr. Francis S.M. Hodson
Chairman
National Endowment for
the Arts
2401 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I want to tell you how pleased I am to learn of the Endowment's recent action in approving a test program geared toward local arts agencies.

This is a very important first step in the Endowment's recognition of the remarkable growth and maturity that local arts agencies have undergone in the last fifteen years. These organizations now comprise a vast network of arts support across the nation which can only be further expanded and enhanced by this latest initiative.

During the 1980 reauthorization of the Arts Endowment, I explored the status and potential of the local agencies and found that, if the federal dollars and some encouragement were supplied, the arts at the local level would benefit tremendously from a relatively small investment. I am certain that the test program now underway will be a striking success.

You and your fine staff, particularly, Ms. Moore and Mr. Turney, are to be commended for their fine work in launching this program. I would very much appreciate being kept informed of developments as the program is implemented in 1983.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Bell

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