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March 16, 1979

Honorable Livingston L. Biddle
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the Foundation for Repertory Theatre of Rhode Island has submitted an application to the Endowment's Challenge Grant Program.

The Foundation has undertaken a major capital fund-raising campaign primarily aimed at retiring the mortgage on the Ledner Theater, the home of the Trinity Square Repertory Company in Downtown Providence. In addition, the Foundation is seeking funds for urgently needed capital improvements to the Theater building. These will finally make the theater operation complete as well as allow for a safer utilization of the building.

It is a critical period in the life of one of Rhode Island's most important cultural facilities. The NEA grant would serve as the much-needed stimulus for the increased community support which the Foundation must have if it is to continue to provide one of the finest repertory theater programs in the country.

I wish to add my own personal endorsement to this grant request. The amount of dollars asked as the Endowment's share of the Challenge is not great, but it will spark the community into positive action which will help ensure the financial stability of the Theater Company.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC:CF