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Claiborne Pell

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Art

September 29, 1982

Mrs. Phyllis Tucker
3838 Olympia Drive
Houston, Texas 77019

Dear Mrs. Tucker:

Thank you very much for your recent letter and for your inquiry about the "Concerned Senators for the Arts" organization.

This organization was formed in February 1981 when the future of a federal role in supporting the arts was very much in question. As one of the original sponsors of this group, I was very pleased when over 30 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle indicated their concern for this role by lending their names to the organization.

We are very much an ad hoc group with not fulltime staff and no regular activities. The list of members, however, has been of use to the national arts community which is often eager to target Senators who are sympathetic to their cause.

The most immediate question facing the Congress in regard to the National Endowment for the Arts is the agency's appropriation level for fiscal year 1983. As you know, the health and vitality of the Arts Endowment is of very special concern to me and I will do everything I can to obtain as high a budget as possible in these difficult times.

I very much appreciate hearing from you and hope you won't hesitate to contact me again in the future if there is something I can help you with.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

enclosure

AC/asy *WJ*