
Claiborne Pell

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen. I am very glad to welcome all of you to my home state of Rhode Island. I am truly delighted that so many distinguished leaders in government, business and academia have assembled for such an important purpose. Our mission to develop a comprehensive and deliberate strategy for the utilization of design is of critical importance to the nation. In the extraordinarily complex and competitive international marketplace of the new millennium, creativity, originality and ingenuity in design are, quite simply, a necessity for our country. If I may quote Mr. Malcom Forbes: "For corporations to be bedfellows with the arts is a good business for both."

Design is one of those rare fields which crosses the boundaries of science and art, economic productivity and human imagination. It is truly a renaissance discipline. So many issues of the very greatest national concern are directly affected by design. So many problems in environmental protection, education, communication and urban development, to name but a few, can be solved only through the inventiveness of exceptional design. Therefore, I am also very pleased that the National Endowment for the Arts is involved in this project, which lives up to the aspirations for American artistic excellence that we set out to achieve in establishing the Endowment thirty years ago.

I believe that in order for our society to reach its greatest potential this must be an era of partnership, synergy if you will, among industry, marketing, government and scholarship. This project's success, I believe, will be a triumph of just such a meeting of the minds. Once again, let me offer my warmest welcome to all of you.