WASHINGTON, DC -------

People For the American Way Chairman John H. Buchanan today criticized the Senate Appropriations Committee for adding several provisions to the National Endowment for the Arts Appropriation bill designed to punish the Endowment and its grantees.

Buchanan is a former eight-term Republican Member of Congress from Alabama and an ordained Baptist minister. Following is the text of his remarks.

"The Committee has today thrown in its lot with those who would impose their moral judgment on the rest of us. The Committee is using the club of government funding to censor works of art. This is a sad day for the First Amendment."

People For the American Way is a 275,000-member, nonpartisan constitutional liberties organization active in defense of the First Amendment. People For spokespersons are available for comment at the contact number above.