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Claiborne Pell

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July 31, 1981

Mr. John B. Bunkley
Emerson Road
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

Dear Mr. Bunkley,

Thank you very much for your recent letter in regard to the reduction in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.

As you know, the President originally proposed a 500 percent cut in the fiscal year 1982 budget for the Arts Endowment. I strongly opposed that proposal - believing it to be unduly severe and too far out of line with other spending reductions.

I am pleased and relieved to report that the recently passed Omnibus Reconciliation Act authorizes the Endowment at a figure of $189.3 million which translates to a reduction of 32%.

I would have preferred a funding level that would enable the Endowment to maintain the level of current operations. Yet, while this was not the final decision, I am encouraged that we have managed to avoid a more drastic cutback.

Thank you again for writing me. I appreciate knowing your views and can assure you that I will continue to do all within my power to see that this vital program remains strong.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC/jb