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Claiborne Pell

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July 15, 1981

Mr. Ralph C. Weisgerber
50 Stubbee Drive
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

Dear Mr. Weisgerber:

Thank you very much for your recent letter in regard to the proposed cut in the budget of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Senate and House are now preparing to go to conference to work out the differences in their respective omnibus budget bills. I am relieved and pleased to report that the Senate bill reduces the Arts Endowment budget by approximately $20 rather than the $200 that was originally proposed by the Administration. The House version is slightly below the Senate.

I am disappointed that the Senate was not able to maintain this unique program at a fully funded level. You can be sure, however, that I will strongly support the Senate position and will vigorously continue my work on behalf of the Arts programs which are so vital to the human spirit and quality of life.

Thank you again for writing me. I appreciate knowing your views and can assure you that I will keep them in mind as the Congress takes final action on the budget.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC/Jb