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Claiborne Pell

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June 15, 1981

Dr. Mayer A. Levitt
425 Angell Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Dr. Levitt:

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

Since you wrote, the Reagan Administration has wisely reduced its recession request to $6.65 million in current year appropriations to the National Endowment for the Arts. I have checked with the Endowment about Trinity Square's specific grant request and was told that it would not be affected by the revised reduction. The situation that Trinity Square and all arts institutions across the country may face in 1982, however, continues to concern me and I am alarmed as you are about the possible consequences of the Reagan proposal.

As you may know, I voted against passage of the Senate budget resolution which set forth cuts even deeper than those advocated by the Reagan Administration. One of the reasons I did this was my very deep concern that a 50% reduction in the budget of the Arts Endowment would have a catastrophic effect on the health and vitality of cultural institutions like Trinity Square. Even though my position did not prevail, I intend to continue working to ensure that any cut in 1982 is a fair one that does not single out the arts for such severe treatment.

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 continues its consideration of the budget.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC/jb