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Claiborne Pell

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June 3, 1981

Mr. Thomas O'Brien
571 Kingstown Road
Peacedale, Rhode Island 02883

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

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

I am proud of the role I have played in helping develop programs in the arts and humanities during the eleven years that I served as Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and Humanities. These unique programs have had an undeniably significant impact on the quality of all our lives. I am very concerned indeed about the effect of drastic proposed cuts would have in curtailing the highly successful federal involvement with our nation's artists, scholars, and cultural institutions.

As you may know, I recently voted against passage of the Senate budget resolution which set forth cuts even more drastic than those advocated by the Reagan Administration. One of the reasons I did this was my deep concern that the 50% reduction in the arts was too drastic and severe. Even though my position did not prevail, I shall continue my work in committee to secure adequate funding for areas which are solvital to the human spirit and quality of life.

Thank you again for writing me. I certainly appreciate your views and will be sure to keep them in mind as we consider legislative action in this area.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC/Jb