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Claiborne Pell

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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 these 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 committees 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