7-29-1994

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Roger Mandle

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July 29, 1994

The Honorable Claiborne Pell  
United States Senate  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Room 335  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I am writing to enlist your support. Please contact Senators Robert C. Byrd (WV) and Mark O. Hatfield (OR) and request that each reject that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) be cut by five percent.

It is extremely disconcerting that this cut would decrease the NEA’s appropriations to a level below the fiscal year of 1984. As you are aware, the purchasing power of the NEA has already decreased by 46 percent since 1979.

The arts are a viable part of both the economy and the educational process. Investment in the arts receives a twenty-fold return in jobs, services and contracts. Therefore, by cutting $8.505 million, Congress would potentially eliminate $170.100 million from the economy. A number of positive projects which involve at-risk youth, battered women, homeless and our nation’s school-age children may be eliminated if the NEA experiences this reduction to its funding.

Programs targeted by the Senate including Theater, Visual Arts, Presenting and Commissioning, Treasury grants and Challenge grants which require a 3 to 1 matching from other sources, support invaluable programs at the NEA. Projects such as Cornerstone’s Theater of Los Angeles which works with inner-city and rural communities nationwide to help bring diverse communities together; Manchester craftsmen’s guild in Pittsburgh which provides training for at-risk students; the Seattle International Children’s Festival which introduces thousands of students each year to performers throughout the world; and the “Learning to Read Through the Arts Program” in New York which works with classroom teachers to integrate art, reading and writing activities within specific curriculum activities may all cease to exist.

The arts are an invaluable part of every day life. Let’s not allow the NEA to experience additional budget restrictions as the results would be devastating.

Sincerely,

Roger Mandle
President