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Arts, Humanities, Museums: Background (1973-1976):
Correspondence 04

Barnet Fain

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April 29, 1976

Senate Labor SubCommittee
Washington,
D. C.

Attention: Livingstone Biddle

Dear Liv:

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed mailing which I received from the Associated Councils of the Arts. Apparently there seems to be uniform enthusiasm about the challenge grant concept and continued reticence about the segment of the bill relating to the museum services act. I guess you win some and lose some.

Best regards,

[Signature]

BF: pz
Enclosure
April 28, 1976

TO: Members of ACA and Advocates for the Arts

FROM: Michael Newton

SUBJECT: Appropriations for the National Endowment for the Arts, Fiscal '77

On Monday of this week, the House of Representatives passed legislation re-authorizing the National Endowment for the Arts for four years with funds for fiscal '77 in the total amount of $125 million. This includes $100 million for national and state programs, $10 million in Treasury funds, and access to a $15 million "challenge grant" fund that was authorized for the Arts and Humanities Endowments. (In addition $15 million was authorized for a new Institute of Museum Services. However appropriations for this program will be dealt with by another committee since the Institute is being administered within HEW).

Action by the Senate is expected very shortly, and we will let you know the outcome. Should any difference arise, it will be subject to a conference committee and referral back to both bodies.

Our immediate concern now is the funding (actual appropriation) for the National Endowment for the Arts for fiscal 1977.

Appropriations legislation for the Arts Endowment for fiscal 1977 is now in the final stages of decision by the House Subcommittee on the Interior. If you have not already done so, will you please write or wire the Chairman and members of the subcommittee today, asking that they appropriate funding equal to the full amount called for in the House-approved authorization i.e. $125 million.

Members of the House Subcommittee on the Interior are:

Sidney R. Yates, Chairman (D-IL)
Frank E. Evans (D-CO)
K. Gunn McKay (D-UT)
John P. Murtha (D-PA)

Robert B. Duncan (D-OR)
Joseph M. McDade (R-PA)
Ralph S. Regula (R-OH)
Clarence D. Long (D-MD)

Letters and wires from across the country are essential in demonstrating broad public support for the arts. Please let this subcommittee hear from you on appropriations today, when a letter or wire from you may be a decisive factor.

We would appreciate receiving copies of your letters.