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Letters (1984): Correspondence 61

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April 11, 1984

Honorable Francis S. M. Hodson
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the Heritage Playhouse in Hopkinton, Rhode Island has an application pending in the Theater Program of the National Endowment for the Arts. I understand that the review process on this request is nearing an end but I wanted to indicate my support for this unique and vital theater before the final decision is reached.

The Heritage Playhouse is an unusual institution in our very urbanized state in that it is located in a rural area and yet presents high quality theatrical productions that attract audiences from all over the state. An impressive number of productions are done each year and the plays range from the most traditional classics to exciting works by contemporary playwrights.

A serious financial crisis now confronts the Playhouse and threatens to close it down unless funds are found soon. My hope is that the Endowment will see fit to respond with some financial assistance. The quality of the Playhouse's productions and the enthusiasm of its audience convince me that Endowment funds would be well spent in this case.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC/ap