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Ms. Linda W. Bing  
125 Carr Street  
Providence, RI 02905  

Dear Ms. Bing:

Thank you very much for your recent letter and supportive comments on behalf of the Afro-American Studies Program at Brown University known as RITES AND REASON.

I am always eager to assist our Rhode Island institutions in any way I can. Unfortunately, the proposal from RITES AND REASON was not brought to my attention until after the Expansion Arts Panel and the National Council on the Arts had met to review it. It would be inappropriate for me to intervene in the review process at this point. The situation is further complicated by the fact that this application was not received by the Arts Endowment until five months after the deadline.

In order to help resolve any unanswered questions, I have arranged a meeting for today here in Washington at which Professor Bass and his colleagues from Brown will meet with various Endowment officials to discuss the application as well as what steps can be taken to ensure funding in the future.

I always appreciate knowing of your interest in this vital university/community program and assure you that I will do all I can to assist it.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC: CF