Letters (1984): Correspondence 94

Claiborne Pell

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Mr. Henry E. Kates  
President  
New England Financial Group  
11 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  

Dear Hank:  

The National Heritage Resource Act which, as you know,  
is designed to reverse the decline in donations of creative  
works to non-profit cultural institutions, is currently  
awaiting action in the House of Representatives. The bill  
has been referred to the Senate Committee on Finance but  
no action is anticipated there until the House clears the  
proposal.  

I regret the very slow pace of this important pro-  
posal. As an original co-sponsor, I continue to believe  
that authors and artists should be allowed to claim an  
income tax deduction for the fair market value of works which  
they donate to museums, libraries and similar institutions.  
The current restriction may seriously affect scholarly and  
academic research and be responsible for keeping great ar-  
tistic and literary creations out of the public sphere.  

I am enclosing a copy of a statement that I made at the  
time this legislation was introduced last year.  

With warm regards,  

Ever sincerely,  

Claiborne Pell  

AC/sp