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Bonnie Brooks

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July 25, 1994

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

Dance/USA, the national service organization for nonprofit professional dance representing over 160 dance companies, service organizations and presenters urges you to support Senator Jefford’s amendment to restore the five percent cut in FY95 funding for the National Endowment for the Arts(NEA) to the Senate Interior Appropriations bill and to oppose any further weakening amendments to the NEA appropriations.

Over the past twenty-eight years, the Arts Endowment has invested precious federal dollars into thousands of our best artists and organizations. Federal support allows dance institutions to offer a wide range of outreach and educational activities while continuing to pursue artistic excellence and innovation. Precious dollars from the Arts Endowment enable dance companies and presenters to work together in developing strong educational programs for communities all around the country.

The Dance On Tour program, a vital resource in making dance accessible to communities of all sizes and demographic characteristics, supports the distribution of quality dance activity throughout the nation. Direct dance program support allows many talented choreographers and dancers to develop and rehearse new material for their audiences. It further enables them to develop innovative workshops, teaching activities and lecture demonstrations which deepen the connection between the artist and the community. Without this support, artistry and community services would suffer.

Please oppose any additional amendments to weaken the Arts Endowment. The annual appropriations process should be reserved exclusively for the discussion of funding related issues; amendments to change the grantmaking process should be addressed in the upcoming reauthorization of the NEA.

The funding level requested by the Clinton Administration of $170.229 million in FY95 represents the bare minimum that the Endowment needs in order to continue to support the great works of America’s artists. Please work actively to support Senator Jeffords in his efforts to restore full funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Brooks
Executive Director