
Roger Mandle

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July 6, 1994

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

It is my understanding that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) may experience a five percent cut to three of its programs – theater, visual arts and inter-arts.

I find it extremely disconcerting that the NEA may experience a cut for what the Committee deems as "questionable grants" or "inappropriate uses of funds."

As I recollect, two controversial grants of the past year totaled less than $10,000, or only five one-thousandths of one percent of the agency budget of $170 million. Even if the contents of all NEA-funded projects are not agreed upon, overall one can easily recognize that the National Endowment for the Arts is an outstanding steward of Federal funds. The Committee should not hold the Endowment to a standard stricter than that of all other Federal agencies.

I would appreciate your support in resisting all efforts to cut the NEA any further.

Sincerely,

Roger Mandle
President