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Claiborne Pell

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May 4, 1981

Professor Robert M. Gutchen
Department of History
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

Dear Professor Gutchen:

Thank you very much for your recent letter in regard to the proposed cuts in the budgets of the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities as well as those in the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Institute of Museum Services.

As you may know, I recently voted against passage of the Senate budget resolution which set forth cuts even more drastic than those advocated by the Reagan administration. One of the reasons I did this was my deep concern that the cuts in all the above programs were far too severe. Even though my position did not prevail, I shall continue my work in committee to secure adequate funding for these areas so vital to the human spirit and the quality of life.

You might be interested to know that we have formed a group in the Senate that is somewhat similar to the Congressional Arts Caucus in the House. It is known as Concerned Senators for the Arts and I am enclosing a list of its members for your information. It is encouraging to note that the arts are supported by such a strong cross-section of the Senate.

Thank you again for writing. I certainly appreciate knowing your views and will be sure to keep them in mind as we consider legislative action in these areas.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

enclosure