

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Capitol, S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Capitol, S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
SD-131
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
SH-125
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairman Reed, and Ranking Member Murkowski:

We write to express appreciation for your continued support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and to urge you to support a \$154 million funding level for each of the endowments. As our nation grapples with economic uncertainty, federal support for the arts and humanities is a vital economic, educational, and cultural priority that impacts many communities across the United States.

For over 40 years, the NEA has provided strategic leadership and investment in the arts and has proudly expanded arts activity across the nation with the mission “to bring arts to every American.” Every dollar spent on federal arts initiatives leverages eight non-federal dollars enriching children and communities through access to the arts that they would otherwise not have.

Federal funding for the NEA acts as seed money that generates massive economic return. The non-profit arts industry generates over \$135 billion annually in economic activity and supports 4.13 million full-time jobs. Additionally, the federal government enjoys a direct return of \$9.59 billion in income taxes, as well as the indirect benefit of improved education, community development, and increased business activity across the country.

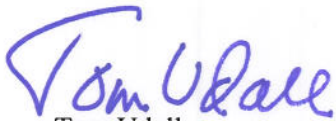
The requested funding for FY14 for the NEA will help the endowment maintain its extremely successful programs, including *The Big Read*, *Our Town*, *Challenge America*, *The Mayor’s Institute on City Design 25th Anniversary Initiative*, *Blue Star Museums*, *Shakespeare in American Communities*, and *Operation Homecoming*. In FY12, the NEA awarded over \$108 million in appropriated funds through just over 2,200 grants reaching all 435 congressional districts.

The NEH is the primary source of federal support for humanities research and related activities in the United States. It provides support for professional development to scholars, educators, curators, librarians, historians, filmmakers, and more. Through the endowment’s efforts, our national heritage is preserved, civic institutions are strengthened, and Americans are better prepared to address the challenges in a constantly changing world. In addition to appropriated funding, the NEH is able to leverage significant, non-federal contributions through competitive grant awards, with direct matching totaling more than \$2 billion over the last few decades.


Federal funding for the NEH includes support for state humanities councils that work in partnership with the endowment to reach millions of Americans each year through teacher institutes, family literacy programs, and thousands of other efforts. With this extensive network of state humanities councils and general NEH programming, the endowment reaches every state and territory across the nation.

Thanks to your leadership, the NEA and NEH continue to play a vital role in every state. We urge you to continue to support federal funding of the arts and humanities in FY14 with a \$154 million funding level for each of the endowments in the final appropriations legislation. We appreciate your attention to this vital funding, and look forward to working with you on this and the other important issues facing our nation.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



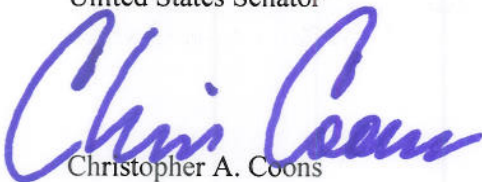
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



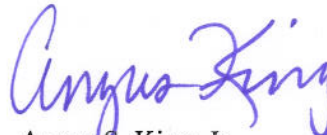
Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



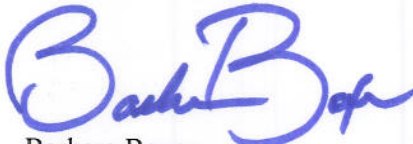
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



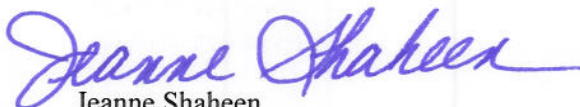
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator




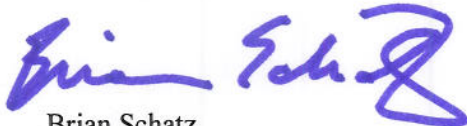
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator





Tim Johnson
United States Senator


Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

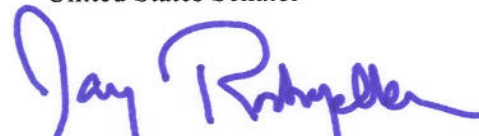

Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Frank R. Lautenberg
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Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Carl Levin
United States Senator



John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator

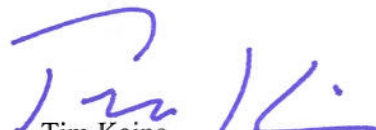

Al Franken
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Martin Heinrich
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Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator


Christopher Murphy
United States Senator


Tim Kaine
United States Senator