

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 3, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Capitol, S-128  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chair  
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 Chairman Inouye, Vice Chair Cochran, 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 Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) level funding for both endowments in the 2012 Fiscal Year. As our nation grapples with economic uncertainty, federal support for the arts and humanities is an important tool for expanding cultural, educational, and economic opportunities in communities across the United States.

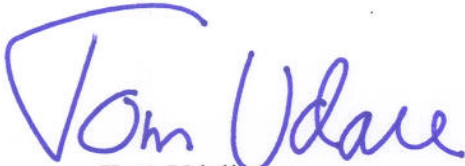
For over 40 years, the NEA has provided strategic leadership and investment in the arts and has proudly expanded the growth of arts activity in areas of the country that were previously underserved or not served at all. In FY10, the NEA directly awarded almost 2,400 grants reaching all 50 states, and state arts agencies partnered with the NEA to award 23,000 grants to 17,500 organizations, schools, and artists in nearly 5,000 communities across the United States. This seed money has resulted in massive economic return with the non-profit arts industry generating \$166.2 billion annually in economic activity and supporting 5.7 million full-time jobs. Additionally, the federal government enjoys a direct return of \$12.6 billion in income taxes, as well as the indirect benefit of improved education, community development, and increased business activity across the country.

The NEH is one of the largest and most important sources of support for professional development for many scholars, educators, curators, librarians, historians and filmmakers. The endowment's efforts preserve heritage, strengthen our civic institutions, and educate Americans to address the challenges in a constantly changing world. In FY10, the NEH made more than 1200 awards totaling \$142.7 million, reaching every state and territory. The NEH is also able to leverage significant, non-federal contributions through competitive grant awards, with direct matching totaling more than \$2 billion over the last few decades. NEH funding additionally supports state humanities councils who work in partnership with the endowment to reach

millions of Americans each year through teacher institutes, family literacy programs, and thousands of other programs. In 2010, these councils worked with 9,600 organizations in 5,700 communities nationwide, and were able to leverage \$5.15 for every federal dollar awarded in grants.

Thanks to your leadership, the NEH and NEA each received \$167.5 million in funding in FY10. We urge you to continue to support federal funding of the arts and humanities in FY12 through flat funding at these FY10 levels. Such support of the NEH and NEA bolsters economies and enriches lives. 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



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Benjamin Cardin  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Tim Johnson  
United States Senator



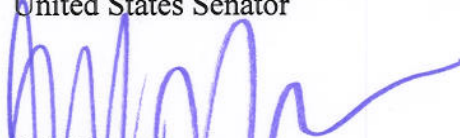
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



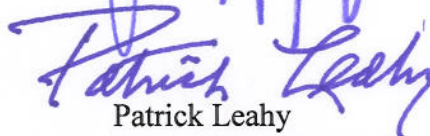
Carl Levin  
United States Senator



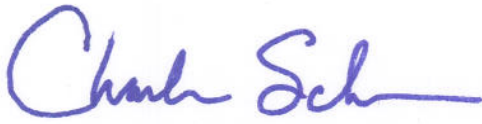
Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senator



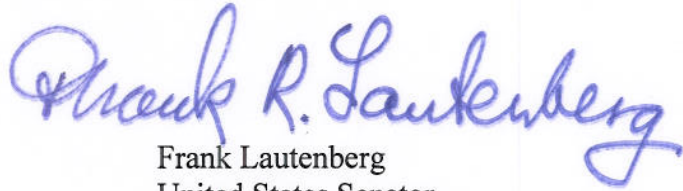
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



Charles Schumer  
United States Senator



Frank Lautenberg  
United States Senator



Daniel Akaka  
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator