



March 31, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

I am writing on behalf of Actors' Equity Association (AEA), the nationwide labor union representing more than 48,000 stage actors and stage managers, and a National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2009.

AEA urges you to support an increase in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, in addition to the \$50 million specified in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Theatre is a vital component of America's cultural life and economic growth and stability. Theatre equals jobs, and funding to the theatre industry directly translates into more jobs, tax revenue, and related spending. In New York City, for instance, for every dollar spent on a theatrical production, \$1.10 is put back into the community; in Chicago the output is \$2.06. Where theatre thrives, you will find an increase in business at restaurants, hotels, parking lots, and many other places where a theatergoer would spend before and after a show.

The economy is directly stimulated by the success of live theatre. By providing funding and support to this industry, you are supporting the economic sustainability of businesses throughout the country.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION

Mark Zimmerman  
President

