The Hon. Charles Taylor  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, 
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-150 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Norman Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, 
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2005

Dear Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks:

When the Fiscal 2006 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill comes before the House-Senate conference committee, we urge you to support $131.3 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, representing the $10 million in increased funding for the NEA approved on the House floor by voice vote on May 19.

The depth of support for additional arts funding as evidenced by the voice vote on the floor is further supported by the 123 Members of the House who called for the NEA budget increase in a letter earlier this year.

The Senate, too, has approved additional funding for the NEA in the FY06 appropriation bill, with an increase of $5 million approved by voice vote in the full Appropriations Committee markup on June 9. We encourage your support and advocacy to bring the funding level in the conference agreement up to $10 million, as approved by the House for the NEA.

This increase would allow continued funding for Challenge America, at the current level at a minimum, and provide support for American Masterpieces as well, as the President requested. Funds allocated to the Challenge America program enhance communities through grants for arts education, youth-at-risk, cultural preservation, community arts partnerships and improved access to the arts for all Americans. This is the funding for the NEA that has been so important in enabling federal arts support to flow into 99% of Congressional Districts.

By approving the $10 million budget increase to protect Challenge America funding and allow new money for American Masterpieces, you will strengthen the NEA’s ability to play its part for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Christopher Shays  
Member of Congress
Tom Lantos  
Member of Congress

Tom Lung  
Member of Congress

Don Beyer  
Member of Congress

Maggie Mckinley  
Member of Congress

Eulalia Eager  
Member of Congress

Andy Warhol  
Member of Congress

Etta Ennis  
Member of Congress

Jim Lucas  
Member of Congress

Caldwell Peters  
Member of Congress

Ernie L. Evans  
Member of Congress
Member of Congress

Sheldon Whitehouse

Member of Congress

Fred Upton

Member of Congress

Cheryl Mills

Member of Congress

Deb Haaland

Member of Congress

Colin Allred

Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro

Member of Congress

Brandon Scott

Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney

Member of Congress

Martin O'Sandoval

Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui

Member of Congress

Debra Haaland

Member of Congress

Saritavel D. Rai

Member of Congress

Tom Cole

Member of Congress

Sandy Frank

Member of Congress

Thomas Basham
Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress

Walter Delahunt
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Jim Himes
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Tом Higinbotham
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Nancy L. Johnson
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Phil Roe
Member of Congress
Brad Schimel  
Member of Congress

Ellen Tauscher  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Jim Ms. Beall  
Member of Congress

Duncan  
Member of Congress

Kapnick B. Mark  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

David Wu  
Member of Congress

Todd R. Akin  
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

Rash Holt  
Member of Congress

Debra Bochenek  
Member of Congress
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