

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2005

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

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**.

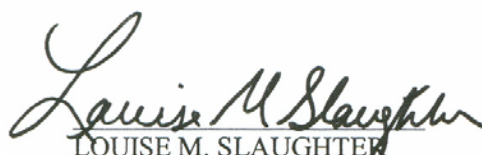
The depth of support for additional arts funding as evidenced by the voice vote on the floor is further supported by the 123 Members of the House who called for the NEA budget increase in a letter earlier this year.

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

Sam Alting

Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop Jr.

Member of Congress

Walter Mah

Member of Congress

Ed Bus.

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Madame Wey

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Richard L. Roth

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Lynn Woolley

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Carl E. Allen

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Ernie L. Engel

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Henry A. Waxman

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Jim Moran

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Howard L. Berman

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Donald M. Payne

Member of Congress

George Miller

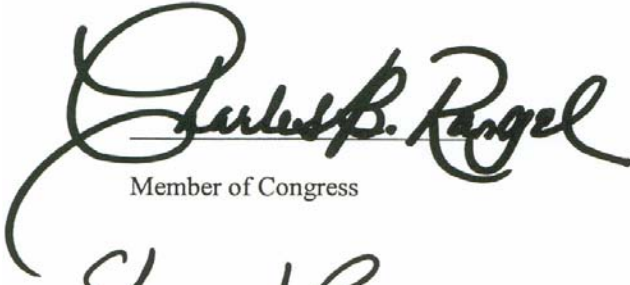
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Henry A. Waxman

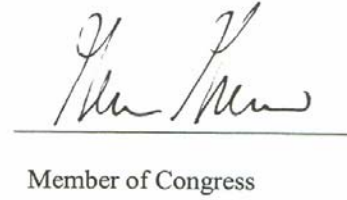
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Sam Rayburn

Member of Congress



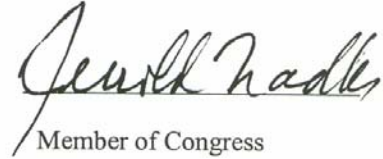
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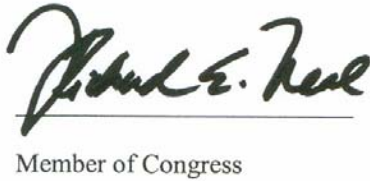
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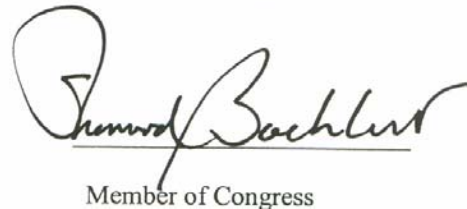
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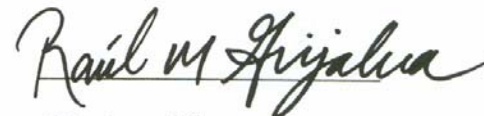
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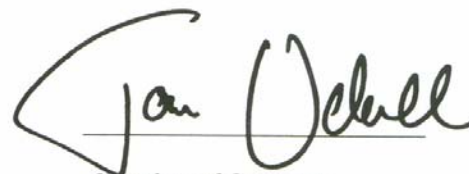
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Tammy Baldwin

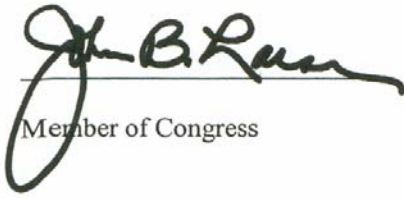
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Rush Holt

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Alphonso P. Jones

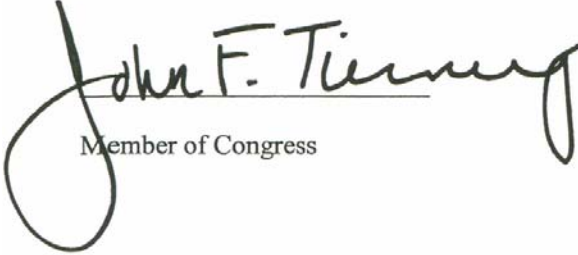
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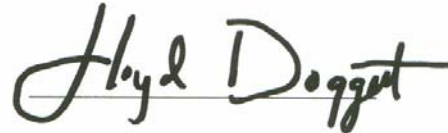
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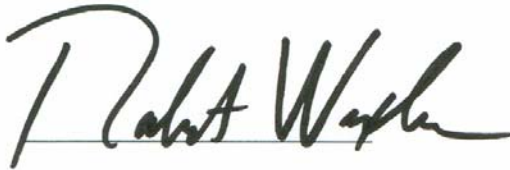
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Robert A. Duff

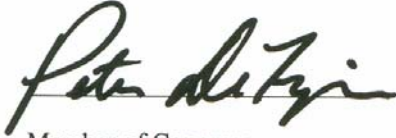
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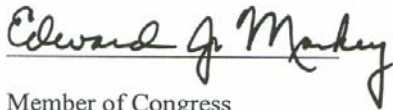
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