

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2005

Dear Colleague:

Arts and culture are among the most prominent means by which we communicate within our communities, our country and across the world. Future generations will learn about our history and ideals through our literature, paintings, dance and drama. Yet, we often overlook the important role of the arts in our daily lives.

We are establishing a Senate Cultural Caucus to bring focus to the arts and humanities and the positive impact they have on our daily lives. We hope this caucus will highlight the work that our federal cultural agencies – the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services – are doing in all fifty states.

As you may know, the Arts Endowment has developed a curriculum using jazz to teach both music and other course work, and it will soon be available at no cost to schools across the country. The Humanities Endowment has embarked on an ambitious and worthwhile effort to expand our understanding of America's history through the We The People program. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is sponsoring notable programs in literacy and education. These are important efforts, and we have to expand their reach.

We also plan to highlight the outstanding initiatives of the community museums, libraries, and theaters throughout the country. There are countless examples of impressive programs that enrich lives and help enliven communities, as well as promote awareness of American history and culture. In Wyoming, for example, the State Library system is working to reproduce electronic copies of all Wyoming newspapers since the state was settled and make them available online. If we can broaden the nation's awareness of these types of programs, it may also provide models for other communities to develop and implement similar programs.

We can do much more to emphasize the broad array of activities that contribute in such a significant way to the cultural identity of our country. The Senate Cultural Caucus will provide opportunities to accomplish this goal. We hope you will join us in this effort and become a member of the Cultural Caucus.

If you would like to become a member, or if you have any questions, please call Beth Buehlmann in Senator Enzi's office (4-6700), Kathy Kruse in Senator Kennedy's office (4-4543), Sherry Kaiman in Senator Jeffords' office (4-5141), or Lauri Hettinger in Senator Coleman's office (4-5641).

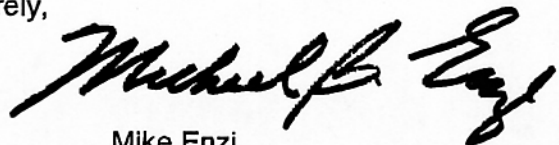


Edward M. Kennedy

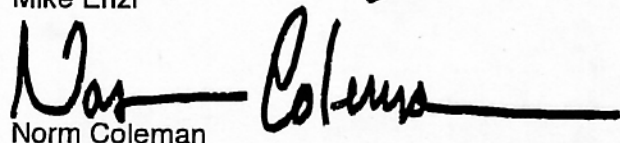


James M. Jeffords

Sincerely,



Mike Enzi



Norm Coleman