

Dear ,

As your constituent, I urge you to reject the misguided proposals from the Administration to cut \$15 million in FY2017 and fully eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in FY2018

Recently, senior advisors to President Trump reportedly were advising the elimination of the NEA – this is a tired old idea, and wholly misguided. Now it's been formally proposed in the Administration and I oppose it. Here's why:

- 1) The NEA is the single largest national funder of nonprofit arts in America. NEA grants help leverage more than a 9 to 1 match in private charitable gifts and other state and local public funding.
- 2) The NEA also has an exemplary partnership with the states, with 40 percent of program funds distributed through state arts agencies.
- 3) With only a \$148 million annual budget, the NEA investments in the arts helps contribute to a \$730 billion economic arts and culture economic industry, including 4.2 percent of the annual GDP and supporting 4.8 million jobs that yields a \$26 billion trade surplus for the country.
- 4) For more than 50 years, the NEA has expanded access to the arts for all Americans, awarding grants in your congressional district and throughout all 50 states and U.S. Territories.
- 5) NEA funding reaches small, rural towns through its "Our Town" grants and specifically helps our wounded soldiers and veterans with effective arts therapy.

Please help ensure this work continues by supporting \$155 million for the NEA in both the FY17 and FY18 budgets. Thank you for taking my views into account. I look forward to hearing your position on this important funding.

Sincerely Yours,