

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert:

We urge you to support a funding level of **\$154.466 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Interior Appropriations bill** to support the NEA's core mission to bring the arts to every American. The NEA reached its peak funding at \$176 million in 1992, and has never fully recovered from a 40 percent budget cut in FY 1996.

According to the NEA, for every one dollar we spend on federal arts initiatives we see nine non-federal dollars leveraged, generating roughly \$600 million in matching support while at the same time enriching our children and communities with access to the arts they might not otherwise have. Moreover, forty percent of all NEA program funds—approximately \$46 million in FY13—are re-granted through state arts agencies. Private support cannot match the leveraging role of government cultural funding.

This level of funding for FY15 will help the NEA maintain its extremely successful programs, including *The Big Read, Our Town, Challenge America, The Mayor's Institute on City Design, Blue Star Museums, Shakespeare in American Communities* and *Operation Homecoming*, which help the NEA reach every congressional district in the country, serving rural and urban communities; impacting veterans, businesses, and schools. In FY13, the NEA awarded over \$112 million in appropriated funds through **just over 2,100 grants reaching all 441 congressional districts**. Few other federal investments have such a widespread impact and magnifying effect across the entire nation.

The NEA contributes to the development and economic growth of communities nationwide. Each year, the nonprofit arts industry generates \$135.2 billion in economic activity, and provides 4.13 million full-time jobs. At the same time, this industry returns \$9.59 billion to the federal government in income taxes. The National Governor's Association and the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognize the enormous value of the arts in our communities and regional economies by approving resolutions and publishing reports in support of federal arts funding.

Arts and culture-related industries provide direct economic benefits to states and communities: they create jobs, attract investments, generate tax revenues, and stimulate local economies through tourism and consumer purchases. These businesses employ 3.35 million people, representing 4.42 percent of all businesses and 2.15 percent of all employees, respectively. America's arts and entertainment are also leading exports, with estimates of more than \$30 billion annually in overseas sales.

Just last year, the American creative sector was also measured by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). The BEA and the NEA developed an "Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account" which calculated the arts and culture sector's contributions to U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) at 3.2 percent—or **\$504 billion**—of

current-dollar GDP in 2011. From the work of nonprofit arts agencies to the impact of cultural tourism, the creative sector is important to state economies all across the country.

The NEA supports life-long learning in the arts. The NEA's education programs have helped to sustain support in local communities for arts education, which has been proven to help close the education achievement gap and also benefit children and adults in many important ways throughout their lives. Students with an education rich in the arts have better grade point averages in core academic subjects, score better on standardized tests, and have lower drop-out rates than students without arts education.

We strongly urge you to support NEA funding at \$154.466 million in the Fiscal Year 2015 Interior Appropriations bill. By approving this level of funding, you will maintain the NEA's ability to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to benefit from the arts. We appreciate your attention to this request, and hope we can count on your continued support.

Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter
Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance
Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus
Member of Congress



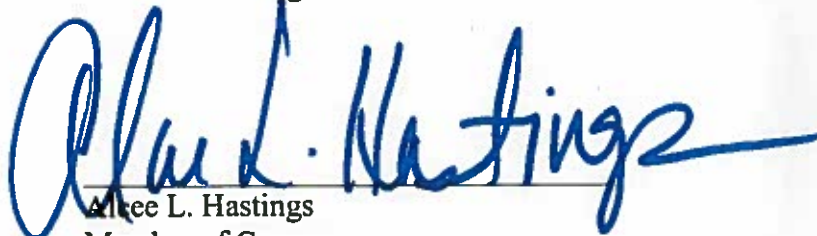
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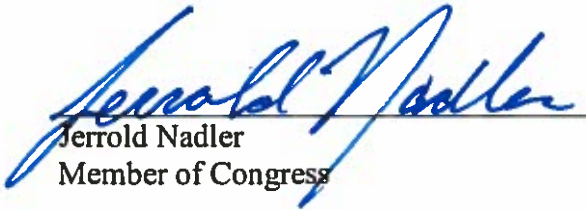
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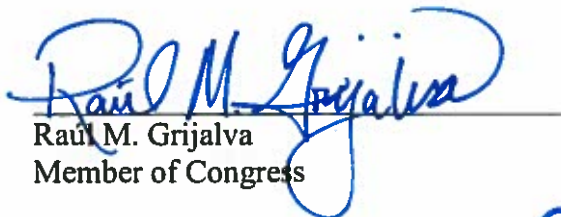

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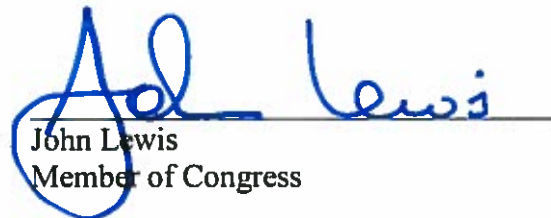

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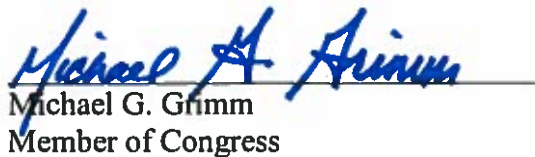

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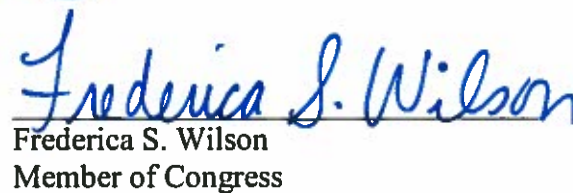

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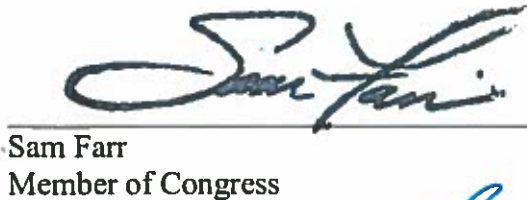

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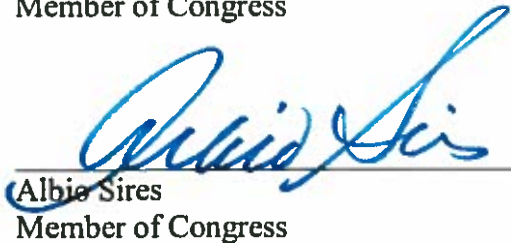

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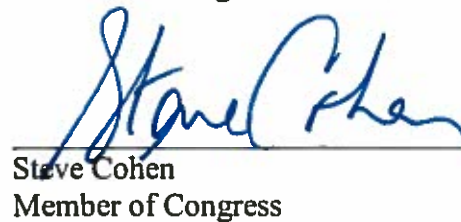

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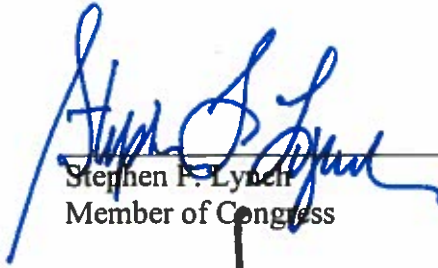

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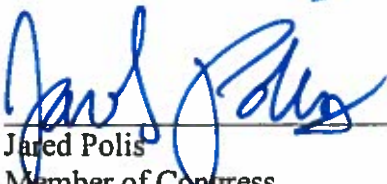
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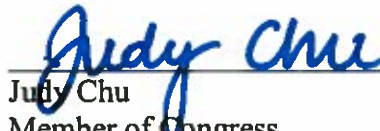
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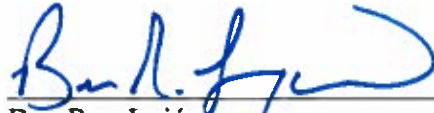

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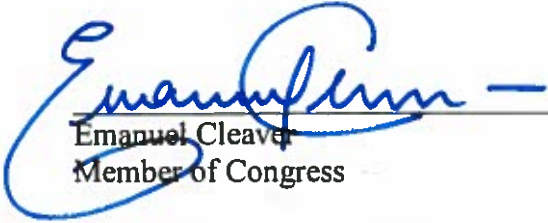

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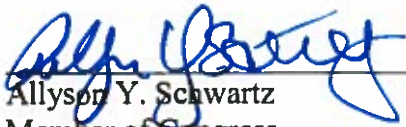
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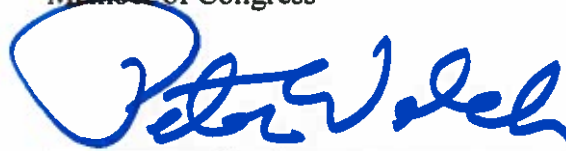
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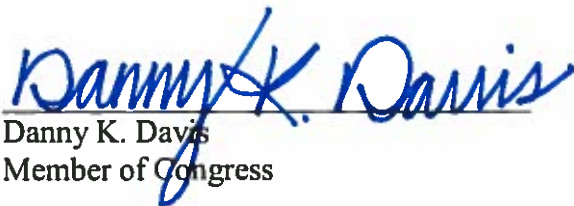
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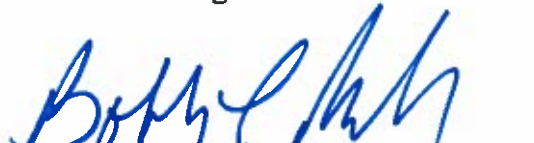

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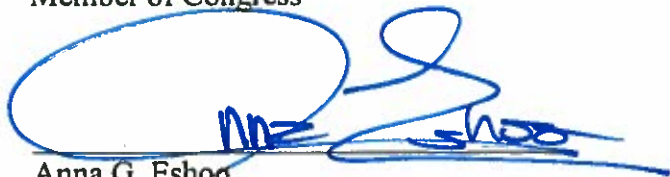
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