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## Design Arts: National Academy of Design (1994): Correspondence 02

Roche Schulfer

Judith E. Golub

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July 25, 1994

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Arts Alliance and its six national arts service organizations representing over 2,600 nonprofit performing, presenting and exhibiting arts institutions located in communities across the nation, we urge you to support Senator James Jeffords' amendment to restore the proposed 5 percent reduction in NEA funding and to vote against expected weakening amendments to the NEA appropriations in the FY 95 Interior Appropriations bill.

The 5 percent cut to the FY 95 Interior Appropriations bill, totalling \$8.5 million, was achieved by taking large reductions in three NEA programs: theatre (cut by 42 percent), visual arts (cut by 41.7 percent) and presenting and commissioning (inter-arts) (cut by 40.5 percent). Another \$1.5 million was cut in challenge grants and treasury funds which require matching money from nonfederal sources. The NEA's budget has been flat for over ten years and, in fact, the agency has lost 46 percent in purchasing power in current dollars since FY 91. Moreover, Congress cut funding for the agency by \$4 million only last year, reducing NEA FY 94 funding to \$170.229 million. Any further budget cuts would greatly jeopardize the NEA's ability to invest in our nation's communities.


At least three weakening amendments are expected to be introduced: content restrictions; further funding cuts or changes in the distribution formula of NEA funds to the states; and procedural changes concerning the grantmaking process. We strongly urge you to oppose these amendments. The Senate already has addressed content restrictions. Additionally, increased cuts or changes in the distribution of funding would further weaken the NEA's national role of promoting the arts. In addition, any changes to NEA procedures and processes are non-germane to an appropriations bill and are more appropriately left for the upcoming reauthorization of the NEA, at which time such concerns would have a proper forum.


We encourage you to actively support Senator Jeffords in his attempt to restore the damaging and arbitrary cuts to the NEA and to speak and vote against the weakening amendments on the floor.

Nonprofit arts institutions play a critical role in building America's communities. Your support of the NEA will allow nonprofit arts institutions to continue to invest in our country's future through their excellent artistic programming; extensive educational and social outreach activities; efforts to bring diverse groups together; and ability to generate revenue and jobs and attract tourism.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Roche Schulfer  
Chair

  
Judith E. Golub  
Executive Director

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