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Joseph T. Ventura

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· The National Italian American Foundation

1019 Nineteenth Street N.W., Suite 730 • Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 293-1713

October 26, 1979

0⁻⁻ 30 <u>1979</u>

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General Counsel ARTHUR J. GAJARSA

Executive Director JOSEPH T. VENTURA

Senator Claiborne Pell 325 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

As a follow up to the National Italian American Foundation's First International Conference, the NIAF is submitting a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities. The goal of the proposal is to hold similar regional conferences in five to ten cities around the country. An abstract of the proposal, still in draft, is attached.

Through the efforts of Jeno Paulucci, Foundation Board Chairman, and John Volpe, Foundation President, the Italian government has given strong indication of their willingness to co-sponsor the conference which will be held in Washington, D.C. as part of the grant. Recognizing your interest in and strong support of the arts and humanities in America, we believe that a letter of support from you would greatly enhance the possibility of our obtaining the grant; we are therefore making that request of you.

For your information, the title of the proposal is <u>Italia Viva</u>, and it is being submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities. Your letter should be addressed to me at the NIAF, and it should indicate your knowledge of the intentions of the proposal, their importance or significance, and your support of the proposal.

Since the submission date for the proposal is November 8, 1979, we would need your letter of support before that time.

Let me thank you for your cooperation and assure you of our support in your work.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Ventura Executive Director

JTV/ap

Enclosure

