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LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
28TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Office of the Speaker
H-232, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
Office of the Majority Leader
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-218, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-131, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
House Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, Chairmen Obey, Rangel, Waxman, Inouye and Baucus:

As you meet with fellow conferees to reconcile the House- and Senate-passed economic recovery packages, I urge you to include \$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts as passed in H.R. 1, *the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act*, in the conference report.

America's overall nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$166.2 billion economic activity every year. The national impact of this activity is significant, supporting 5.7 million jobs and generating \$29.6 billion in government revenue- \$12.6 billion of which is federal.

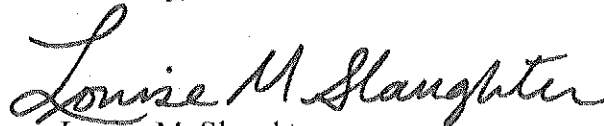


Moreover, investing in the NEA is a proven way to stimulate local and regional economies. The NEA ensures that their investments in the arts reach communities throughout the country. In fact, in 2007 the NEA awarded 2,234 grants totaling \$100,712,053 in 435 congressional districts. Moreover, every \$1 of NEA spending leverages \$7 in additional support through local, state and private donations. No other federal program provides such an incredible return on our investment.

The arts and culture industry creates jobs, attracts investments, generates tax revenues, and invigorates communities through tourism and consumer purchases. That is why both the National Governor's Association and the U.S. Conference of Mayors agree that investing in arts and culture-related industries provide important economic benefits to local and regional economies.

I have included a summary that indicates how many jobs the creative economy supports in your district, as well as talking points you may wish to use while meeting with your fellow conferees to defend the NEA funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise M. Slaughter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress