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Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

19th May 2017

Dear Senator Feinstein,

Proposed elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The cutting of all federal funding to this vital institution will leave this country significantly impoverished, and the intention to do so strikes me as a dangerous combination of ignorant and spiteful.

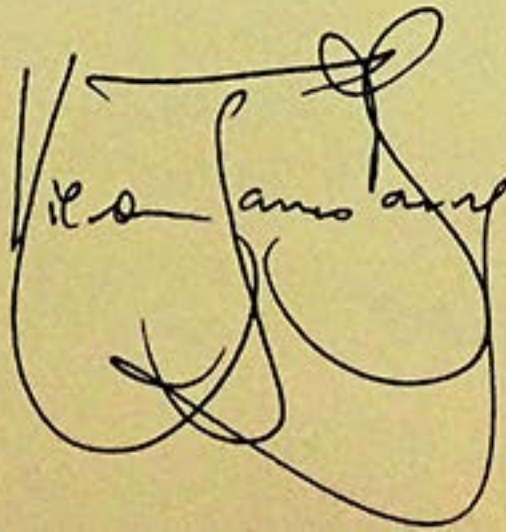
If history has taught us anything, it is that art is a civilising and enriching influence on the lives of all. Among the key duties of a nation state are the preserving of its culture, the nurturing of its artists and the creation of opportunities for its citizens to encounter works of art to which they might not otherwise be exposed. These duties must not be abandoned.

Even if our only desire were financial betterment, it is still in our best interests to preserve the institution. Using a mere 0.003% of the federal budget, the National Endowment for the Arts must surely be a strong contender for the government body achieving the greatest impact with the least resources. And where art leads, commerce always follows. Funding for the arts is not subsidy – it is investment.

Our culture is all that will survive of us. Surely Americans would wish to be remembered as modern Greeks, not Vandals?

If you share my concern, I would be grateful to learn what actions you propose.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieron Barry', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.