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ARTSSOUTHDAKOTA.ORG



US Congressman Dusty Johnson
1714 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Johnson,

I want to thank you for voting "NO" to House floor amendment numbers 60 and 61 of the FY24 House Interior Appropriations bill that would have eliminated all funding to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Your vote shows South Dakotans like me that you value the arts and humanities' economic, social, cultural, and educational impact.

In partnership with the NEA, the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) works for all South Dakotans, enhancing the quality of life in every corner of our state. Grants from the SDAC totaled \$1.5 million in FY22, supporting artists, arts organizations, schools, and other nonprofits, resulting in \$17.75 million in local spending and support. The supported programs reached 70% of South Dakota counties and 85 different communities, resulting in 335 grants. 694,868 people, including 223,288 youth, were reached through these grants.

The work of the South Dakota Arts Council is vital to our state, and it is made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. Thank you for standing up for continued funding for the NEA, the SDAC, and the importance of equitable access to the arts for all South Dakotans.

If I can ever be of assistance to your office regarding the arts sector in our state, never hesitate to reach out.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Speirs', written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Jim Speirs
Executive Director

