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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 9, 2018

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

Enclosed please find letters I have sent to the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations to express the County of Santa Barbara's support for the National Endowment of the Arts in the *FY 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill.

The County believes that the role of arts and culture in the community can be a force in developing economic vitality. Recent studies of arts-grant funding initiatives at the national and State level demonstrate the vital impact arts and culture have on the economy and on civic engagement.

Grant funds from the NEA are used to attract private sector support and to leverage public sector funds. The benefits include improved quality of life and lifelong learning, increased community engagement, public places and parks activated through the arts, and the preservation of cultural assets and practices and increased cross-cultural understanding. The County's Office of Arts and Culture supports and educates local cultural practitioners, helping them continue to make contributions to all residents' quality of life. These programs include engaging veterans and their families in arts programs, and arts in prison programs that are aimed to reduce recidivism.

Thank you for your support for the NEA. As the Subcommittee drafts the *FY 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill, please work with your colleagues to ensure NEA funding at least at the FY 2018 level of \$152.8 million.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilcrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg
Enclosures