

To: Keane, Susan

Cc: Senator Duff; "terry..backer"@cga.ct.gov; Sen. Frantz, Scott; Senator Maynard; Rep. Nafis, Sandy; Rep. Heinrich, Deborah; Rep. Santiago, Ezequiel; Rep. Villano, Peter; Rep. Thompson, Jack; zRepresentative Terrie Wood; Rep. Urban, Diana; Rep. Willis, Roberta; Rep. Roy, Richard; zRepresentative John Stripp; zRepresentative Fred Camillo

Subject: Conservation and Development Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Ms. Keane : This communication is regarding the Conservation and Development Appropriations Subcommittee. I would ask that our comments please be posted on-line and added to the record.

We are writing to urge the committee to allocate the highest possible funding to the Arts and Culture, since they are critical to Connecticut's economy and for attracting and retaining a quality workforce. We are members of the Fairfield Arts Council, the Center for Contemporary Printmaking in Norwalk and the Westport Arts Council, all of which provide immeasurable quality of life and irreplaceable attractions and services to their communities.

We offer the following statement from the Connecticut Arts Alliance, a statewide arts advocacy group that has recently been reorganized:

Connecticut Arts Alliance Response to Governor Rell's Proposed Budget

* The arts are critical to the economy of Connecticut, accounting for \$14 billion in economic impact annually, including support of 44,000 jobs.

* Arts and cultural activities are critical to attracting and retaining a quality workforce.

Therefore: 1) Arts and culture should receive the highest possible funding in the biennial budget. 2) Continued support for tourism districts and marketing dollars are essential to marketing the arts and culture. 3) It is important for the arts and tourism to retain a high profile and autonomy in the state government.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue,

Peggy and Randy Weis
Fairfield, CT