

May 30, 2017

Congressman Tom Reed
89 West Market St.
Corning, NY 14830

Dear Congressman Reed,

As leaders of arts and cultural organizations in the Southern Finger Lake region of your District, we, the undersigned, represent a diverse group of your constituency. We applaud and appreciate your past record of voting for arts and culture by supporting the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services and other federal funding streams. As you know, we rely on these monies to provide arts and culture services throughout the District, a mission that is necessary for a vibrant, economically vital region.

President Trump's proposed budget threatens to eliminate this support and looms as a danger to our region. In previous communications, we have provided you and your staff with letters describing the impact Mr. Trump's proposals would have on our organizations and the District. We urge you to speak out on behalf of these federal institutions in Congress, and to vote to continue funding them at or above the current level. If you have any questions or concerns about this issue, please feel free to contact us. We are very willing to meet with you to discuss the ramifications of the proposed budget.

Again, thank you for your previous support. Now, more than ever, we need you to be a strong voice in the House.

Sincerely,

Dr. Connie Sullivan-Blum,
The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes
Karen V. Epstein,
The ARTS Council Board Secretary
Lynn Dates,
171 Cedar Arts Center
Bruce Whitmarsh,
Chemung County Historical Society
Ronald Shaw,
Chemung County Library District
Karen Cromer,
Clemens Center
Joseph Caparulo and Lynne Rusinko
Community Arts of Elmira

Karol Wight,
Corning Museum of Glass
Monica Nix,
Heritage Village of the Southern Finger Lakes
Tom Weidemann,
International Motor Racing Research Center
Marshall Hyde,
Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes
Pauline Emery,
Southeast Steuben County Library
Brian Hildreth,
Southern Tier Library System
Elaine Spacher,
Tanglewood Nature Center and Museum