

WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, EAST



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March 13, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

Writers Guild of America, East ("WGAE") is a proud National CoSponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2007. WGAE is a labor union representing approximately 4,000 professional writers in the motion picture, television, cable, and new media industries in entertainment and news. WGAE is actively involved in the promotion of the arts.

In 1978 WGAE established The Writers Guild of America, East, Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation"), a not-for-profit organization which fosters the art of writing in the fields of motion pictures and television, encourages and develops creative talent among "new" writers, and administers programs of information, education and support for scriptwriters at the threshold of their careers in the film and broadcasting industry. The Foundation has received support from governmental agencies including the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the New York State Council on the Arts, networks and studios, producers and agents, and from WGAE and its individual members.

WGAE strongly supports legislation to promote the arts. WGAE urges Congress to draft and pass legislation implementing UNESCO's Recommendation Concerning the Status of the Artist. Additionally, WGAE requests that Congress increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, arts in education programs within the U.S. Department of Education, and the State Department's Cultural Programs Division, and reject funding cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. WGAE also asks that Congress amend the tax code to allow for charitable deductions of artists' own artistic work at full market value, remove restrictions on fractional gifts of art, and make permanent the provision allowing donation of moneys from IRA accounts to charity absent negative tax consequences.

We believe these issues vital to the future of the arts in America.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Chris Albers in black ink.

Chris Albers
President

Handwritten signature of Mona Mangan in black ink.

Mona Mangan
Executive Director