



CRAFT EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

March 31, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

The Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) is proud to be a national co-sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2009. CERF is a national organization whose mission is to strengthen and sustain the careers of craft artists across the United States. CERF accomplishes its mission through direct financial, informational and technical assistance to craft artists, including: emergency relief assistance and business and career development support. With 24 years of service and more than 7,000 supporters across the country, we are dedicated to a future in which professional craft artists of all ages and backgrounds are able to thrive in communities across the United States. This is a future in which craft artists have the financial supports, access to insurance, information, resources, referrals, advice, training and recognition that they need to sustain their livelihoods as artists.

As a sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day, CERF joins many national arts, humanities and civic organizations in urging Congress to support legislation that promotes the arts and values the contributions that artists make to our culture.

We particularly encourage you to support legislation, which would:

- Increase artists access to affordable and appropriate health insurance, recognizing that this populous and important part of our American workforce too often does not have access to group plans provided by traditional employers;
- Consider extending unemployment benefits to self-employed workers, including artists;
- Support the National Endowment for the Arts at the \$200 million level;
- Allow artists to claim a tax deduction for the fair market value of work they donate for charitable purposes;
- Promotes the sale of American made art and craft in our nation's national parks.

We thank you for valuing the creative work of America's artists and cultural organizations and the contributions they make to our lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cornelia Carey".

Cornelia Carey
Executive Director