

# FOLK ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL

March 5, 2019

Dear Member of Congress,

Folk Alliance International, the world's largest folk music member service organization and annual industry convention, is honored to be a National Partner of Arts Advocacy Day 2019.

Our 30-year-old arts service organization represents countless American folk music genres including Appalachian, Americana, Blues, Bluegrass, Cajun, Creole, Indigenous, Latin, Global Roots, Old-Time, and singer-songwriters. We preserve, promote and present folk music through Education, Networking, Advocacy, and Field, Consumer, and Professional Development.

Our Lifetime Achievement Award recipients include Bob Dylan, Odetta, Woody Guthrie, Joan Baez, Pete Seeger, Harry Belafonte, Elizabeth Cotton, and Ralph Stanley as well as the American Folklife Center, The Highlander Center, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, and the National Council for Traditional Arts.

On behalf of all our US-based artists, agents, managers, labels, venues, festivals, and the millions of Americans who make up our audiences as fans of folk music, **we urge you to ensure the following:**

**Full funding of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)** whose grants support a thriving cultural sector,

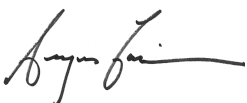
Enact the **Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) provision** requiring U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to implement reasonable processing times, as required by law, for O and P visa petitions filed by or for U.S. nonprofit arts organizations.

Support for the **CREATE Act** (sponsored by Sen. Tom Udall) providing Comprehensive Resources for Entrepreneurs in the Arts to Transform the Economy.

Preservation of **incentives for charitable giving**, and a **unified charitable sector** that does not favor certain charities over others.

Each of the above, and additional items proposed by our esteemed National Partners are more than simply fiscal and legislative commitments, they are a major value statement that you wish to preserve and promote a robust creative sector and citizen access to the cultural and educational opportunities that advance creativity and innovation in across the nation.

Sincerely,



Aengus Finnan  
Executive Director

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