

# VENTURELLAGRAM

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Henry Fogel,  
Chicago Symphony Orchestra;

Ardis Krainik,  
Lyric Opera of Chicago;

James N. Wood,  
The Art Institute of Chicago.

COPY

Your letter asking Arts Supporters to HELP STOP ANTI-ARTS LEGISLATION! has been received. I know you did not pick my name out of the blue to receive your solicitation. It was because for more than twenty-five years, I have been a member of the Art Institute.

Now, I find I must seriously reconsider whether I shall renew my membership when it next expires. You see, I disagree with your beliefs that a.) it is a proper function of government to provide support for the arts; and, b.) it is necessary for the public treasury to support artistic pursuits.

Not only do I not share your beliefs, but I find it to be the height of self-serving for you to ask the Congress of the United States to impose taxes on the productive sector of society for your benefit. It is especially repugnant to me for you to do so at a time when both the Administration and Congress claim to want to balance the budget. What you ask for may seem to be but a drop in the bucket; but, consider, the bucket is filled by adding drops.

It is because of the tax burden that such a large portion of our population is unable to voluntarily support your laudable institutions. I would love to be able to afford to attend the symphonies at Orchestra Hall, and the many excellent operas presented by the Lyric Opera. There are many others who also would do so if we were not saddled with the burden of paying for non-governmental functions such as yours.

Consider this, it is not only because some of the funds have been granted to "controversial" works that so many of us object to continued tax support for the arts. It is rather, that, as I wrote above, it is not a proper function of government. More of us who share this belief are now speaking out.

Sincerely,

  
Sam Venturella

copies: Senators Dixon and Simon, Representative Annunzio  
and others

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