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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515-6015

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May 6, 2025

The Honorable Richard Grenell  
President  
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
2700 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20566

Dear Ambassador Grenell,

I am writing regarding the funding included in the budget reconciliation proposal<sup>1</sup> approved by the U.S. House of Representative Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The proposal includes \$256,657,000 for the Kennedy Center. This is nearly six times more than the annual funding appropriated through the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee.

As the Ranking Member of the Appropriations subcommittee of jurisdiction, I request a detailed account of how the Kennedy Center intends to use this funding, should it be approved by Congress.

- As you may be aware, the Kennedy Center's Comprehensive Building Plan (CBP) recommended \$157 million in capital repair projects through 2027<sup>2</sup>. The amount included in the budget reconciliation proposal for capital repair is \$84.5 million more than the need identified by the Kennedy Center in its CBP. What projects will be funded with the \$241,750,000 for capital repair and restoration? If there have been updates to the CBP, please share them.
- The budget reconciliation proposal also includes \$7.707 million for operation, maintenance, and security, and \$7.2 million for administrative expenses. The Kennedy

<sup>1</sup> [https://transportation.house.gov/uploadedfiles/ans\\_to\\_ti\\_committee\\_print\\_reconciliation.pdf](https://transportation.house.gov/uploadedfiles/ans_to_ti_committee_print_reconciliation.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.kennedy-center.org/globalassets/our-story/mission/kennedy-center-fy25-budget-justification-to-congress.pdf>

Center's annual budget request includes administrative expenses as part of its Operation and Maintenance account. How is this administrative funding different than what is typically requested under Operation and Maintenance, and can you provide details of how it will be spent?

- The regular annual appropriation is provided in accordance with the Kennedy Center's authorization<sup>3</sup>, which restricts funds from being used "for any direct expense incurred in the production of a performing arts attraction, for personnel who are involved in performing arts administration (including any supply or equipment used by the personnel), or for production, staging, public relations, marketing, fundraising, ticket sales, or education." Is it your understanding that the same restrictions would apply to the funding provided through reconciliation?
- If these funds are provided, how will it impact the Kennedy Center's annual appropriations need?

I am committed to the Kennedy Center having the resources necessary to carry out its mission now and for many years to come, and I appreciate President Trump's shared interest in the Center's future. However, as this Administration seeks to eliminate vital cultural agencies that serve communities across the nation, we must ensure that funds appropriated by Congress are truly benefitting the artists and audiences that make the Kennedy Center great.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations

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<sup>3</sup> 20 U.S. Code § 76r - Authorization of appropriations