

SAMPLE LETTER TO FAX OR EMAIL

“Urge Your U.S. Representative to Co-sponsor the Artist-Museum Partnership Act of 2009”

*Note: Please try to personalize your letter
by sharing information about yourself, your profession and your organization.*

[Date]

The Honorable [Representative's Full Name]
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative [Representative's Last Name],

I am writing to inform you about an important issue to museums throughout country and the communities they serve.

On February 23, Representatives John Lewis (D-GA) and Todd Platts (R-PA) introduced the Artist-Museum Partnership Act (H.R. 1126) of 2009. This legislation proposes to amend the Internal Revenue Code allowing artists, writers, scholars and composers to receive the fair market value tax deduction when donating their works to a public institution or charitable organization. If this legislation is approved, it would not only make the tax code fair and equitable, it would also be great benefit to museums and the American public.

Prior to the enactment of the Tax Reform Act of 1969, writers, composers, scholars, painters, choreographers and other artists were able to donate their work to a public or charitable organization and receive a tax deduction based on its full fair market value. Under current law, artists are only allowed a deduction based on the cost of materials used to create the donated work. Yet, collectors of these works can take the fair market value deduction when they donate them to a public or charitable organization.

In addition, most museums have limited funds to acquire new works and rely heavily on donations. However, as a result of the 1969 repeal, artists—many of whom earn very little—have no financial incentive to donate their works. Therefore, many works of local, regional, and national significance are all too often sold to private collections and never enter into the public domain. Please help us preserve and enrich our cultural heritage by providing the fair tax treatment of artists.

I respectfully urge you to support the Artist-Museum Partnership Act of 2009 by co-sponsoring the legislation. The congressional staff contacts are Miguel Martinez of Congressman Lewis' office at (202) 225-3801 or Rebecca Wolfkiel of Congressman Platts' office at (202) 225-5836.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your support. If you have any questions, please contact me at [Insert Phone Number] or [Insert Email].

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Address, if not using organization letterhead]