

Re: HB6439

February 19, 2021

Dear Members of the CT Appropriations Committee,

As Secretary of the board for the New Haven International Festival of Arts & Ideas, I urge you to support funding in the Governor's Proposed FY 2022-2023 Budget for Conservation and Development agencies.

The State of Connecticut has always been a generous supporter of the Festival, and we very much appreciate that support. Indeed, we are proud that the Festival is worthy of that support, as every year it brings in job opportunities and an economic boost to the city of New Haven and the tourism sector. Perhaps equally important, it brings together people of all walks of life in community engagement. And it does so through serious discussions and serious fun.

Of course in this pandemic year your support is especially welcome, as so many have suffered, and recovery is crucial. Please support this vital area.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sledge