

April 1, 2011

The Honorable Paul LePage  
Office of the Governor  
#1 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Dear Governor LePage:

On behalf of the Portland Arts & Cultural Alliance, we respectfully request the return of the mural by Judy Taylor to its originally intended location at the Maine Department of Labor.

The mural was selected through a publicly approved process and financed by taxpayer dollars. A thorough, fair and public process should be employed to consider the removal of any commissioned work of public art.

We are concerned about your actions on a number of fronts, namely the lack of respect for:

- our democratic processes;
- our state's identity across the world as a place that encourages creativity, diversity and tolerance;
- Maine's long history as a model for fair, open, nonpartisan dialogue; and
- the artist and her work.

Indeed, we believe that this lack of respect is highly counterproductive to our shared goals of strengthening Maine's economy, attracting businesses to the state, and creating jobs.

Maine's economy and creative assets are interdependent. The creativity of our citizens is critical to making our communities more attractive to entrepreneurs, professionals, and workers. In turn, a strong workforce is essential to ensuring support for our arts and cultural community.

Please consider your actions in this context. Using your executive power to order the removal of a publicly financed work based on the subjective opinions of a few is not "a welcome sign" for commerce. In fact, it's the opposite. It is stifling and divisive.

Please, return the mural.

Respectfully,

Alice Kornhauser  
President

Jennifer Hutchins  
Executive Director



**Board of Directors**

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