

DATE

Hon. «Name»  
STATE Senate or STATE House of Representatives  
Address

Dear Senator [Last Name]: or Dear Representative [Last Name]:

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to ensure that the libraries of STATE have the funding needed to provide the library resources needed by all STATEans in the twenty-first century.

STATE's libraries are currently ranked number XX in the nation in terms of collections, services and state support. XXX of the XXX library districts depend on the LLGSF (Local Library and Government Support Fund) for XX% of their funding, and as you may know, the LLGSF rises and drops with the economy.

State aid to libraries has not been increased since 1998 and yet the demand for and costs of providing library and information services has increased steadily each year. Recent studies have shown that library usage increases dramatically during tough economic times, as the unemployed access libraries and their knowledgeable staffs to research new career opportunities or start a new business.

The recent recession and loss of tax revenues have confronted libraries across the country with drastic budget cuts. If we do not work to establish reliable funding, STATE's libraries will lose this lifeline that connects so many people to the world of education, employment, and health.

The STATE library community, including staff, trustees, patrons and students, is asking you to help see library funding restored to its intended levels in permanent law as soon as the economy shows signs of recovery, to insure that high quality library services are accessible to all STATEans.

At LIBRARY in CITY, STATE, we are working to build a stronger, more viable community space for information seekers and life-long learners, and we're asking for your help.

I have attached the OCLC membership report, *Libraries: How They Stack Up*, which illustrates the economic impact of libraries. This report contains some interesting comparisons of library economics and activities to other sectors, professions and destinations in the worldwide economy.

I have also attached the OCLC membership report, *Five-Year Information Format Trends*, which highlights information format trends and what these trends may mean for libraries and their patrons.

I would be delighted to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the current state of STATE's libraries, and how your support can make a difference.

Sincerely,

NAME  
ORGANIZATION

/Attachments (2)