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January 15, 2025

Representative Nath and Members of the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division:

My name is Maddie Cummings, and I am the Library Director of the Lake Region Public Library in Devils Lake, North Dakota. I am writing today to express my support for HB 1013, especially regarding the North Dakota State Library budget. The State Library plays an incredibly crucial role in assisting our library by providing valuable resources for our staff, patrons, and entire community.

In the past biennium, the Lake Region Public Library has received three grants from the North Dakota State Library totaling \$18,646.69. These funds were absolutely crucial in large-scale capital projects that we absolutely could not have afforded on our own, including painting the interior of the main library (which had not been done since the building was constructed more than 20 years prior), installing a remote entrance for secure entry to the building after regular library hours, installing accessible window coverings to our most exposed windows, as well as supplementing important aspects of our collection: resources for mental and social health, LGBTQIA2S+ materials, and books by and for Native authors.

In addition to these competitive grant opportunities, the North Dakota State Library also provides State Aid to public libraries, which has proven vital to the Lake Region Public Library's yearly revenue. Between 2022-2024, our library has received \$37,911, which averages to \$12,637 per year. This is the equivalent of electricity, heat, and telephone & internet for an entire year. Without this yearly funding (of which there are standards we strive to meet and exceed), our library would not be able to provide as many necessary programs, resources, and services to Devils Lake and Ramsey County.

Finally, patrons in Ramsey County consistently request materials from other libraries both in- and out-of-state, and with shipping costs continuing to rise, this may not be a reality for all patrons in the future. The Lake Region Public Library is extremely excited about the proposed ILL Bridge from the North Dakota State Library to promote interlibrary loans, where we will be able to request materials directly from the lending library as opposed to needing to go through a middle man and shipping an item four times instead of twice. Not only will this save money on shipping costs, but it will also save time- something we take for granted when our patrons can't wait to get their hands on a new book.



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The North Dakota State Library not only provides funding to the school, academic, public, tribal, and special libraries of North Dakota, but they are constantly offering support and passion for library science and information sharing. The State Library and staff have and will continue to benefit the residents of Ramsey County via the Lake Region Public Library, and we look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maddie Cummings".

Maddie Cummings
Library Director