



Bottineau County Public Library  
314 5th Street West  
Bottineau, ND 58318

701-228-2967

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January 22, 2025

Dear Representative Nathe and members of the House of Appropriations Education and Environment Division;

My name is Beth Reitan and I am the director at the Bottineau County Public Library. I am writing to you today in support of HB 1013, regarding the budget of the North Dakota State Library. The North Dakota State Library provides all the libraries in the state of North Dakota many invaluable resources that we would otherwise not have access to, including, but not limited to, access to online books through Overdrive, language resources such as Mango Languages, homework help for our students, and continuing learning for our adult patrons. Without the State Library's resources, our patrons would otherwise not have access to these platforms, as we are simply not able to afford them with our budget alone. The funding we have received from the State Library over the years through state aid and grants have been absolutely necessary to provide the patrons of Bottineau County with not only access to the counties digitized newspapers, programming for all ages, story time, summer reading opportunities, and many fun "extras", but they allow us to provide the necessities needed to operate, such as books, building upkeep and maintenance, and basic supplies. Without the aid of the North Dakota State Library, the very core of what we do would be compromised.

Another huge part of the State Library is the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) program. The Bottineau County Public Library uses this program daily - in 2024 alone we requested over 175 titles to be loaned from other libraries across the state and beyond. We just do not have the space or funding for everything, including book club kits, and teen series, which can contain over 20 titles. The ILL service is one of our most utilized that the State Library offers, and while we offer this service free to our patrons, it is not free for our library. With the rising cost of shipping and complicated mailing logistics, to have the proposed Interlibrary Loan Bridge would be a huge advantage financially and is much more efficient to libraries both requesting and loaning materials library to library, as opposed to having to go through the State Library every time.

We look forward to serving our patrons as best we can in the future, with the North Dakota State Library's support.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in support of HB 1013.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Beth Reitan", written over a horizontal line.