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Chairman Roers and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

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 SB 2219, which will allow for the disbursal of surplus library materials to libraries throughout the state, as well as annual reports required by public libraries in the state to be eligible to receive financial aid from the State.

The Lake Region Public Library is a city-county library, serving both Devils Lake and Ramsey County as a whole, and despite the fact that we are technically in the top ten largest public libraries in the state, nationally we would be considered small and rural. The financial State Aid our library receives annually very literally makes or breaks our budget when it comes to keeping up a 20-year-old building that has not been touched in its entire existence, expanding staff and resources to keep up with growing visits, programs, and initiatives, and all the other services our library offers. In regards to surplus library materials, I have made personal trips to libraries across the state to take advantage of used materials for our library, and having a formalized program to allow this to happen would alleviate the pressure this puts on our resources.

Given how much this bill will aid the Lake Region Public Library, I can only imagine the immense benefits the passage of this legislation will have on the dozens of smaller, even more rural libraries in North Dakota. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Maddie Cummings
Library Director