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Chairman Longmuir and the Members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee,

My name is Kerrienne Boetcher, and I am the Ward County Public Library director in Minot, North Dakota. I am writing today to express my support for SB 2219, and I am joining my fellow librarians in asking you to do so.

The first section of this bill relates to the disbursement of surplus library materials throughout the state under section 54-24-03 of the North Dakota Century Code. On the national scale, Ward County is considered a small and rural library like most North Dakota libraries. At the state level, we do not rank among the largest libraries but are not among the smallest. This exemption would allow the State Library to offer weeded materials to our public and K-12 school libraries through a lottery system without providing the information to the state surplus. An exemption like this is similar to one already utilized by other state agencies. These materials can support our smaller libraries and help make them a central part of our communities without burdening the local community.

The second section discusses the requirement to complete and submit an annual report under section 54-24.2.06 of the North Dakota Century Code. The clarification will make the requirements for State Aid to Public Libraries more straightforward and give our libraries a clearer picture of what is needed.

Libraries are vital to North Dakota and our small communities, and this bill will have a tremendous impact on and benefit them. I ask that you support libraries in North Dakota and vote in favor of SB 2219 as proposed.

Respectfully,

Kerrienne Boetcher

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