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31 July 2012

Chair Jeff Cogen  
Commissioner Deborah Kafoury  
Commissioner Loretta Smith  
Commissioner Judy Shiprack  
Comissioner Diane McKeel

Dear Chair Cogen and Commissioners:

I urge you to vote to place on the November ballot, the measure pertaining to the establishment and funding of library district for our vital and valued Multnomah County Library.

Sparing you my oral testimony once again and providing an opportunity for other concerned citizens to speak up this morning, I am briefly, yet no less passionately expressing my support for a library district funding at a rate that supports the operation and services voters of Multnomah County has grown to expect and appreciate. At a time when support of proactive programs is critical, our elected and respected leaders need to play an active role in creating the future rather than letting forces such as flawed funding Measures 5 and 50 negatively impact our nationally as well as locally respected Multnomah County Library.

Literacy is crucial in the development of citizens who contribute positively to the economic and social fabric of our society. At a time when school libraries have been dismantled, our county library provides the trained services, materials and support where it is tragically absent.

Furthermore, Multnomah County Library has proven itself as a reliable and trusted source of contact and credibility with all segments of our society, those in need of services, regardless of economic, educational, or professional status.

I praise you for cautiously and competently approaching this difficult issue, and for taking the high road when dealing with competing groups and governments.

Please know too, that if you do vote in favor of giving voters an opportunity to vote for a well-funded library district measure in November, I will do all that I can to insure a positive outcome.

Yours truly,

  
Marian Creamer