

F.I. GOLDHABER

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Dear Multnomah Board of Commissioners:

My name is F.I. Goldhaber, a resident of the City of Portland in Multnomah County. I am a homeowner, taxpayer, voter, SMART volunteer, and a published novelist, short story writer, and poet.

I'm guessing you aren't aware just how many authors make Portland their home because many of us keep a low profile. Some, like myself, use pseudonyms. But, this coming weekend, (Aug. 3-5) many of us will emerge into the blinding sunlight to attend one of the largest writing conferences in the country -- attracting more than eight hundred writers, editors, agents, film producers, and publishers from coast to coast and overseas -- here in Portland.

Portland was named by "National Geographic" one of the top ten literary cities in the **world**, the highest ranked U.S. city at number seven. The only other U.S. city that made the list was "Washington D.C.," at number eight.

I don't expect the Multnomah County Library to compete with the Library of Congress, I'm disappointed by apparent reluctance on the part of elected officials to provide the library the support it needs to deliver the services local residents have come to expect and cherish.

Although the "National Geographic" article doesn't mention the Multnomah County library, in truth the library is the bedrock of Portland's literary community. The library supports the culture that spawned the Portland Arts and Lectures series, Wordstock, and that produces enough readers to attract independent bookstores of every size and classification. I challenge you to find a night in Portland where some literary event isn't luring people out to spend money.

The library is often the first glimpse children have of the worlds, stories, and information available to them in books. I hate to see Multnomah County children deprived of the library's many activities and marvelous collections for any day of the week.

I urge you to refer the library district to voters in the November election.

Sincerely,

F.I. Goldhaber