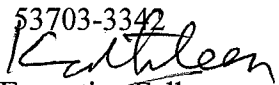


MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Central Library
201 West Mifflin St.
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 266.6300
www.madisonpubliclibrary.org

BRANCH LIBRARIES: Alicia Ashman • Hawthorne • Lakeview • Meadowridge • Monroe Street • Pinney • Sequoia • South Madison

September 20, 2010

Kathleen Falk
Dane County Executive
Room 421, City County Building
201 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703-3342


Dear County Executive Falk,

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to fund the Dane County Library Service for 2011 at 100%, the level requested by the Dane County Library Service Board.

This nominal increase in the county library tax of approximately 3 cents per \$1,000 ensures that library services will be allowed to continue without the threat of cut-backs. In a time of great economic challenge, we feel that each and every library service performs a vital function both in our communities and in the county as a whole.

A lack of funding for the Dane County Library Service can only perpetuate a negative economic cycle at a time when Dane County residents require the use of every available resource. In Madison, for example, these services include assistance in filing taxes, programs in resume writing, tutor space for individuals to study for their GED, ACT, and GRE exams, and a host of other outreach programs.

In our case, the Madison Public Library is reimbursed for non-resident use per the DCLS reimbursement agreement. In order to avoid having the City of Madison support non-Madison residents use of our libraries, this agreement needs to be maintained at 100% of actual costs for 2011. Especially at a time when Fitchburg's new library (exciting as it is to welcome another partner to the area's libraries) will further reduce the county payment to municipalities. Public libraries throughout the county rely on DCLS to build its collection; a reduction in its materials means longer waiting lists and a lessening of our public service output as a whole.

We thank you for your past support of the strong and effective program of library services now available to residents in Dane County, and for the 100% funding you authorized for 2010. We look forward to the same level of support in 2011.

Sincerely yours,


Theodore C. Widder, III
President, Madison Public Library Board

cc: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
Madison Common Council
Dane County Supervisors Representing Madison