



DANE COUNTY

Kathleen M. Falk
County Executive

September 4, 2008

Theodore C. Widder, III, President
Madison Public Library Board
201 West Mifflin Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Mr. Widder:

Thank you for telling me your thoughts regarding next year's county funding for the Dane County Library Service.

The 2009 budget will be difficult, in large part due to the specific events of the current year. The winter was as expensive as it was miserable. Inflation is high with gasoline the most visible and expensive of increases. The economic slowdown has lowered projected revenue from the sales tax, interest and other county revenues. In turn economic hard times almost always leads to increases in need for county services; for examples, job training needs, housing, spousal or child abuse, child neglect, AODA, and mental health issues, among other problems.

I seriously review each budget request each year and I will keep in mind the important points that you raised as I prepare the 2009 County budget.

Even during these times of increasingly tight budgets with dwindling federal and state funding to our county, the Library Service continues to be a priority to me. I will work hard to preserve these important services in our final 2009 budget. I very much appreciate your taking the time to tell me your priorities early in the budget process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Falk
Dane County Executive