May 8, 2018

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
204 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Cortez Masto,

I am proud to write to you on behalf of the Department of Administration, which oversees the Nevada State Library, Archives, & Public Records (NSLAPR), to share with you highlights of our state’s libraries and the vital role they play in our communities.

In fact, it is my pleasure to share with you that the Department of Administration is working closely with NSLAPR staff to reimagine the state library and archives facility on the Capitol campus. All state governments can benefit from entrepreneurial thinking, innovation and lean organizational operations. To actively advance the converging of these tools and resources with statewide government service functions and responsibility is not only proactive but is also fiscally responsible. This is foundational to 21st century public service in America. State libraries are trusted places of learning and information. We see the library building (100 N. Stewart Ave.), transformed into a proposed Knowledge and Innovation Center (KIC) by repurposing space to better suit the 21st century needs of state employees. From curating collaborative meeting spaces, to providing training programs, to delivering research assistance and more will put Nevada’s State Library services at the forefront of the kinds of life-long learning necessary to be competent in a 21st century workplace. And, in an age of endangered government information, the KIC aims to further define and teach key information literacy traits vital for the various communities of practice encompassing public sector employees. Into the foreseeable future these key skills and abilities will play an even larger role to protect and advance the quality of life for all Nevadans.

Now more than ever, libraries can provide a space of learning, growth, and programming to assist citizens to become fully engaged members of our many communities—civic, professional, and academic. For example, NSLAPR staff have leveraged Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to purchase the Nevada Career Explorer, powered by Headed2 which is a dynamic job-search software. This service is provided free-of-charge to all Nevada library cardholders and is designed to
help them anticipate and respond to real time nationwide and Nevada-specific job trends — essentially identifying which jobs are in demand and how they can qualify for them. Additionally, LSTA funds have been deployed to bring cutting-edge virtual reality technology to eleven libraries, and grant funds for community-based library programs are customized for our diverse population—from Austin to Las Vegas to Reno to Yerington – also play a supportive day-to-day role in many ways for residents.

Attached is a letter of endorsement for the state library's vision to become a Knowledge and Innovation Center signed by Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy Chairwoman, Nancy Cummings-Schmidt, MLS. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about the KIC vision for the Nevada State Library and Archives building in Carson City, or how I see its value to make public service in Nevada stronger, leaner and more effective.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Patrick Cates, Director
Nevada Department of Administration

Attachment: Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy Chairwoman’s letter endorsing KIC