May 8, 2018

Senator Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Heller,

I have been a member of Nevada’s library community for decades, both as a Washoe County Library Director (retired) and as a member, now chairwoman, of the State Council on Libraries and Literacy (SCLL). I respectfully ask that you support our communities by voting to continue funding the federally-granted Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) in the upcoming year.

In my long career as a library professional, I have seen firsthand the impact that LSTA funds have made on the lives of Nevada residents. I strongly believe that without this grant, our libraries would not be able to provide the literacy and educational services that many patrons rely on. For example, the Carson City Library has received $297,000 in federal funds since 2013 to deploy a range of free-to-the-public initiatives, including spearheading a first-in-the-nation machine tech I (MT1) certification to aid local residents obtain a credential to enter the manufacturing workforce at a higher level. Due to this and other measures, the Carson City Library is one of the finalists in the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ (IMLS) Library of the Year—one of only five finalists in the nation!

We have also used LSTA monies to assist in the repair of rural bookmobiles, help libraries expand their services and collections, provide high tech virtual reality equipment to a diverse number of libraries, and to provide grants-in-aid to nearly all library jurisdictions in the state, so that they may better serve their communities through programming that meets the unique needs of their residents.

These fantastic programs and many more like them are in jeopardy. Libraries are used to doing a lot on a shoestring budget. However, without federal funds many of our libraries and citizens would have to go without the fundamental services (like literacy and education) that bind us together as local and statewide communities. We ask that you support our efforts by voting YES to reapportioning federal money to the LSTA program. With your help, we will continue to make Nevada a place where all citizens can succeed—all they need is a free library card!

Respectfully yours,

Nancy Cummings-Schmidt, Chairwoman
State Council on Libraries & Literacy
May 8, 2018

Senator Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sen. Heller,

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,

Patrick Cates, Director
Nevada Department of Administration

Attachment: Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy Chairwoman’s letter endorsing KIC
May 2, 2018

Patrick Cates, Director
Department of Administration
515 East Musser Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Director Cates,

As State Council on Libraries and Literacy (SCLL) chairwoman, I was thrilled to learn of the proposed plans to transform the State Library space into a Knowledge & Innovation Center (KIC). Now more than ever, libraries have the potential to provide essential services to our communities and state employees are no exception. The KIC vision has the possibility to fundamentally reimagine collaboration and education, concepts that are at the forefront of keeping our state relevant and engaged. Indeed, they will better be able to serve Nevada’s citizens by using the KIC for a range of services geared toward adaptivity and diversity.

With proposed spaces for both formal and informal meetings, as well as study and research, the KIC is what a library can and should be. Its very name—Knowledge and Innovation Center—implies a celebration of the fundamental skills needed to be successful now, and in the future—knowledge, a love of learning and a desire to acquire new skills; innovation—trying out those new ideas and concepts with the aim of improving existing practices; and center, the locus where this dynamism takes place. These are concepts that are at the heart of what a library is.

Please know that you have my wholehearted support in this endeavor. SCLL hopes to be with the Department of Administration and the State Library every step of the way as we forge ahead to bring the KIC into reality. Together we can reimagine the possibilities of what a 21st century library can be!

Respectfully yours,

Nancy Cummings-Schmidt, Chairwoman
State Council on Libraries & Literacy
April 30, 2018

Dean Heller, Senator
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller,

My name is Soraya Silverman-Montano and I am the 2018 Nevada Library Association President. I am writing to you in lieu of being able to attend National Library Legislature Day this year, in hopes of seeking your support for libraries in Nevada and across the nation.

As a constituent as well, I hope that you will help support federal funding to the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as these two resources are crucial to the success of libraries in the United States. Funding and support from both LSTA and IMLS enable us to support the 3 million residents of the state of Nevada, through services much beyond just checking out books and DVDs. Outside of the Nevada Library Association, my career has been working for the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District for fourteen years now and I am so proud of the services we’re able to offer our patrons absolutely free of cost such as:

- Providing fundamental services to children, teens and their families who could not afford it otherwise including:
  - Tutoring through the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Andson Academics
  - Meals through a partnership with Three Square for our hungry children and teens
  - Parent education workshops that help build their child’s learning at home to better succeed in school
  - Daily storytimes to build language and literacy for children ages 0 through school age that develops a love of learning and for books and create lifelong learners
  - A safe place to explore creative venues and learning curiosities for children and teens to be themselves and be welcomed with open arms

- Enabling residents who do not have internet or computer use at home the ability to access free Wi-Fi and computer usage along with staff who can assist patrons in building computer literacy skills, assisting with online job inquiries and building internet safety skills for our patrons using our computer centers

- The ability to check out Wi-Fi hotspots to have access to internet at home

- Building community and culture through a multitude of events, festivities and programs throughout the year

- Providing access to dozens of databases and online resources at home such as: online tutoring and homework help; job placement, building job skills and resume writing; connecting veterans to military veteran services, and all other patrons to government and social services resources; access to hundreds of thousands of digital eBooks, eAudiobooks, music and video streaming and downloads; and so much more.

My library district alone also had over 6.1 million visits from residents last fiscal year and circulated over 12.9 million items. This is on top of the other 21 public library systems, 10 academic university and college libraries, 17 school library systems and a dozen other special libraries in the state of Nevada, all supporting our residents.

Libraries are vital to our communities and we need both LSTA and IMLS to continue to provide these resources to our patrons. Thank you for your consideration and hopeful support of these two entities on behalf of the Nevada Library Association, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District and all of the residents of Nevada.

Sincerely,

Soraya Silverman-Montano, Nevada Library Association President
3 May 2018

Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller,

On this 2018 National Library Legislation Day, I write to you with great enthusiasm and optimism on behalf of the Nevada Library Cooperative, an organization that has worked tirelessly for over thirty years to ensure all Nevadans and especially rural Nevadans have access to exemplary library service, innovative and exciting technology and all the empowering opportunities that come along with full engagement in our democracy and our society.

The Nevada Library Cooperative serves the counties and communities of our state outside of Washoe, Douglas and Clark Counties. The organization is geographically far-flung yet maintains a collaborative and engaged membership with an ambitious and exciting vision for the future. In fact, the organization recently submitted a $100,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant proposal to assist with a sweeping and unprecedented strategic planning process that will facilitate the organization towards new heights and levels of support for member libraries and for their communities.

We sincerely urge you to reauthorize and fund the LSTA at $186.6 million for FY 2018 and FY 2019. Many of our rural member libraries are small yet mighty and LSTA funding opportunities through the Nevada State Library are exceptionally empowering to those members. We also urge you to oppose the FY2018 budget proposals to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services, LSTA, IAL, Title IV Part A, and other vital library programs. These cuts would be utterly devastating to our member libraries and their communities: student literacy, job training, business expansion and entrepreneurship, veterans’ assistance, critical access to high-speed internet and digital resources will be will be drastically reduced or eliminated entirely.

Libraries are cornerstones of our democracy and vital community anchors. The Nevada Library Cooperative is honored to serve our 42 locations across this broad state. Together, we are making lives better and we gratefully appreciate your support.

Respectfully,

Cynthia O
NV Library CoOp Director
April 26, 2018

Dean Heller  
324 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  

Dear Senator Heller,  

I truly appreciate your commitment to the state of Nevada and your constituents. Although I cannot attend National Library Legislature Day, I am writing to urge you to support our libraries.  

I want to encourage your positive vote in the reauthorizing and funding of the LSTA at $186.6 million for FY 2018 and 2019. Those funds flow through IMLS directly to states with a state match. The funds Boulder City Library has received in the past five years has reached over $15,000 and have supported database access and the summer reading programs, both of which have enabled our small community to grow and thrive over the years. In fact, we offered 189 programs in June, July, and August of 2017 to nearly 400 participants aged from infant to adult. But that’s just a small sample, as our library’s impact goes way beyond the summer months and reaches well into the community of nearly 15,000 people.  

Libraries are critical to the growth of local communities and if they are not recognized by our representatives as such, then they cannot survive. I urge you to use your influence responsibly to see that the LSTA funding continues so libraries can resonate strongly within our communities.  

Thank you for your work in the Legislature to keep Nevada communities strong and resilient.  

Sincerely,  

[Signature]  

Kimberly Diehm  
Library Director
The **LAS VEGAS-CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT** is a catalyst for community change.

**WE DON’T LIBRARY LIKE WE USED TO!**

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**SUCCESS FROM CRADLE TO CAREER**

Every day we work with families, caregivers and childcare facilities to make sure every child enters school ready to learn. After-school homework help, programs that explore the sciences (STEAM) and teen TechArt Studios are some of the programs that foster youth development from cradle to career.

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**LEARNING THAT NEVER STOPS**

Libraries are places for learning no matter what age, income or cultural background. Demand for free online books, movies and music is soaring, at the same time people still treasure their books and DVDs. Our libraries are hubs of activity with 6.2 million visits, 13 million items borrowed, and 2 million computer sessions each year.

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**WORKFORCE AND ENTERPRISE GROWTH**

This year, our library rolled out a national model partnership with Workforce One-Stop Career Centers. Now, there are even more resources for job-seekers, returning veterans, and small business people, available in our buildings or on the Internet 24/7.

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**CENTERS FOR IMAGINATION AND CIVIC LIFE**

Libraries are active civic centers and neighborhood anchors. With over 650,000 active cardholders and attendance at over 16,000 programs topping 633,000, our 25 branch libraries are the heart of our communities, where people come together to enjoy author visits, dance and theater performances, art exhibits and events like the Vegas Valley Book Festival.

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**HEART OF THE COMMUNITY**

All our libraries are catalysts for achievement and neighborhood vitality. The new Mesquite Library will open on May 31, 2018. A new East Las Vegas Library (on 28th and Bonanza) will open in the Spring of 2019.

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Las Vegas-Clark County Library District
7060 W. Windmill Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89113

Dr. Ronald R. Heezen, Executive Director
May 1, 2018

Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller,

I am writing today to enlist your support for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Within the state of Nevada, this funding supports libraries and citizens statewide from the statewide electronic databases, continuing education and workforce initiatives, to the multiple creative and useful individual library projects, and especially Nevada Talking Book Services (NTBS).

NTBS is part of the National Library Service’s federal program providing audio materials to Nevadans with a visual or physical disability preventing them from reading print materials. Without these funds, this program would not have the resources to provide the quality service our patrons appreciate and deserve. From phone to online support, we interact daily with our patrons to provide the type and quantity of materials which contribute to their quality of life. Patrons share with us on a regular basis how appreciative they are of this program and the staff.

In fiscal year 2017, we circulated over 115,000 books. We added 367 patrons to the program. Without the LSTA funding, all facets of this program would be negatively impacted.

I urge your continued support of LSTA funding, a vital and essential source of funding for Nevadans.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Hope Williams, NTBS Regional Librarian
April 30, 2018

Senator Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

While I am unable to attend National Library Legislature Day in person this year, it is my hope that you will consider this letter my voice in seeking your support for libraries.

I urge you to support funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) which helps keep libraries up to date and relevant not only in Churchill County but across the state. This critical funding supports the Summer Reading Program and adaptive technology. Loss of this funding would have a negative impact on the library and the community by extension.

Churchill County has had a library presence since 1905 and we work hard to ensure the best possible service for the 450 people who pass through our doors daily in search of accurate information, leisure reading material, to attend a program, workshop, meeting or other purpose. We also serve the community 24/7 through a robust website. Your support of libraries on the national playing field is critical to our success.

Thank you and I invite you to stop in the library to see what we offer the community the next time you’re in town.

Sincerely,

Carol Lloyd
May 1, 2018

Dear Congressman Dean Heller,

I am writing to you to urge you to support the reauthorization and funding the LSTA Grant at $186.6 million for FY 2018 and FY 2019.

Libraries play a critical role in fostering the development of 21st century skills that are essential in the modern workforce. The rhythm of study and work habits is changing—success requires collaboration, idea sharing, problem solving, and innovation. Libraries are uniquely positioned to meet these new demands by providing a learning environment that meets the needs of the community with open access and experiential learning opportunities.

Nevada State Library and Archives provides excellent support in facilitating funding through the LSTA Grant opportunity by recognizing strong projects in which to invest. WNC has applied for an LSTA Grant to meet these changing industry demands by transforming our library. This project includes a physical redesign and realignment of services—including relocating personnel to allow for holistic librarian, tutor, faculty, and student collaboration. This funding opportunity is vital in allowing the library to meet these needs and best prepare our students for success in both college and careers.

Finally, the publicly funded nature of libraries is essential to achieving the goals of equity and inclusion. The programs and services provided by libraries create opportunities for growth, skill development, and economic success for everyone—but only if they continue to receive funding through avenues such as the LSTA Grant.

Sincerely,

Denise Frohlich
Director of Learning & Innovation
WNC Library
April 24, 2018

Senator Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

Thank you for meeting with librarians and library representatives from the State of Nevada. Though I could not attend National Library Legislative Day, I would respectfully ask for your support of libraries.

Please reauthorize and fund the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at $186.6 million for FY 2018 and FY 2019. LSTA funds are granted to states through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). State Libraries distribute these funds to support needed library services in their states. Over the past three years Henderson Libraries has received $131,810 in LSTA funding. Recently Henderson Libraries has relied upon these LSTA funds to provide culturally diverse programming and collections, to support our summer reading programs for children, to offer STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) programming to children and adults, to support digitizing documents for our patrons and our digital collections, and more.

With over 625,000 visits to the Henderson Libraries last year, we are an indispensable institution that serves our community by providing varied and diverse educational and social experiences. Your support is essential to keep Nevada libraries beneficial to our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I would love to show you around our libraries the next time you’re in Southern Nevada.

Sincerely,

Marcie Smedley
Executive Director
Henderson Libraries
702-207-4293
mlsmedley@hendersonlibraries.com
May 1, 2018

Dean Heller

324 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heller:

As you are aware, libraries play an increasingly critical role in the lives of young children as well as adults entering the workforce. We have appreciated your continued support of the library and the community that you serve in Northern Nevada.

I am writing to you today to urge you to support funding to the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) which assists libraries all over our great state. This funding has supported Summer Reading Programs that keep children reading and engaged out of school. LSTA funding also sustains state-wide initiatives such as databases that support student research, the Nevada Talking Book, a free library service for Nevadans who are unable to use standard print materials due to a visual or physical disability, and a variety of other innovative programming. The Institute of Museum and Library Services, which allocates LSTA funding, allows libraries to access federal funding through a competitive grant process. Since 2015, Washoe County Library System has received over $250,000 from this program. This federal funding directly supports our local Nevada libraries.

Washoe County Library System serves 450,000 residents that check out 2 million items every year. Our Downtown Reno Library is right across the street from your office in Reno. We plan to renovate this facility in November. We invite you to stop by this library, or any of our 11 other locations throughout Washoe County, and see all we have to offer.

Thank you for your support of LSTA funding for Nevada’s libraries.

Sincerely,

Jeff Scott, Director
Washoe County Library System