

December 12, 2015

Congressman Kurt Schrader
2431 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Schrader,

On behalf of the Oregon Library Association, I encourage you to increase funding for our libraries and literacy programs in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA). A fair share of the sequestration relief should go towards restoring the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) to the pre-sequester level of \$213.5 million which had been cut to \$180.9 million in FY15.

Oregon receives \$2 million of LSTA annually. The State Library manages the funds, directing 31% to Oregon's libraries as competitive grants, 30% for electronic resources for all Oregonians, and the remainder for various projects and services that serve targeted audiences and strengthen Oregon's libraries. Two examples of these include a statewide school library web portal to licensed, grade appropriate materials and a 24/7 online reference chat service. The LSTA funded competitive grants range from providing tablets to support early learning curriculum in the Baker County Library District to digitizing Oregon's newspapers at the University of Oregon Library to developing a resources sharing network among the Albany Public Library, the Lebanon Public Library and the Linn-Benton Community College Library.

The LSTA funds are the only federal funds directed at libraries. With them, we maintain our strong current level of access to information for all Oregonians. We also get to experiment with new types of services and address the needs of different audiences. LSTA funds provide a basic suite of electronic resources that Oregon libraries can use local funds to enhance.

I realize that the budget discussion is difficult and there are many demands for relief from the sequestration. Oregon's libraries deserve some because we make people's lives better by supporting a literate population, providing access to tools and space for improving lives and being valued community institutions. I urge you to use the relief provided in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 to raise the allocation for LSTA.

Warm regards,



Jane Corry
President, Oregon Library Association