



Sarah Moore
Portland Public Library
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Dear Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs:

I write to express strong support for the provisions in the Governor’s supplemental budget that relate to the Maine State Library. These recommendations represent thoughtful, strategic investments that will help ensure Maine residents—regardless of geography, age, or economic circumstance—continue to benefit from dependable, high-quality library services, particularly at a time when federal funding streams remain uncertain and difficult to predict.

Sustaining state support for a portion of the Maine InfoNet Executive Director role is particularly important. This position underpins the cooperative systems that connect libraries across the state, allowing collections to be shared widely and efficiently. The result is a cost-effective network that dramatically expands what any single library can offer its community while maximizing public resources. Maintaining this infrastructure through reliable state funding is both prudent and forward-looking.

The proposal to fund the Library Section Supervisor position in Public Outreach through state dollars is equally significant. This work strengthens local libraries by providing training, consultation, and direct assistance that helps them meet evolving community needs. In many towns, especially rural ones, libraries serve as essential access points for information, technology, and civic participation.

Likewise, moving the vacant Librarian Specialized Services position to state funding helps safeguard services that reach individuals who encounter barriers to traditional library use. Reliable funding for this role will allow these programs to grow and adapt, ensuring that more Mainers can access reading materials, information, and opportunities for learning and engagement.



These measures reinforce the infrastructure that allows libraries to function as trusted community anchors—places that promote literacy, strengthen local economies, and foster informed participation in civic life. At a moment when external funding sources are uncertain, these state investments provide stability, continuity, and confidence for communities that depend on library services every day.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing support of Maine’s libraries and the people they serve. I respectfully encourage you to approve these provisions in the supplemental budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah Moore'.

Sarah Moore
Executive Director
Portland Public Library