



The Brookfield Library

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March 3, 2015

To: Appropriations Committee

Re: Funding for libraries: SB 942, Section 36 and CT General Statutes 11-99e and 11-31a-31c

I am writing in support of continued funding for the Connecticut Library Consortium (\$350,000), State Aid to Public Libraries, and ConnectiCard. Each of these provides direct benefit to the libraries in *your* communities, and to all library users in the state.

The annual grant to CLC, the Connecticut Library Consortium (Cooperating Library Service Unit), is only \$350,000, yet it saves many, many times that amount for libraries with already tight budgets. In Brookfield, the savings negotiated by CLC on just book and media discounts alone, with the free shipping, almost doubles our materials budget. **Brookfield's savings with the CLC-negotiated discounts in FY 13-14 totaled \$35,602.47 (see next page).** Yes, we could bargain with each vendor, but individual discounts would be less than half of this. Multiply Brookfield's savings by the number of libraries in the state, and the funding for CLC is more than justified.

Funding for Grants to Public Libraries and ConnectiCard provide a small but essential boost to library budgets. In Brookfield, these two grants total about \$3,000 – enough to pay most of the cost of the Summer Reading Program for children, or pay for our Teen books for the year, or for something as simple as toner for our copier. With town budgets so tight, even \$3,000 makes a difference.

Please do not eliminate funding for the Connecticut Library Consortium, Grants to Public Library, or ConnectiCard, or the statutes that created them. They are vital services to library users throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Anita R. Barney
Library Director

Savings negotiated through the Connecticut Library Consortium

Alliance – DVDs and music CDs	\$3,309.20
B&T – Children’s books	\$5,225.32
Britannica Digital – online encyclopedia	\$590.40
Demco – library supplies	\$461.08
Ingram – adult and teen books	\$19,454.90
MicroMarketing – audiobooks on CD	\$5,612.50
Midwest Tape – DVDs	\$213.00
Movie Licensing – public performance license to show movies	\$158.42
WT Cox Subscription Services – magazines	\$577.65
Total Per Library Savings 13/14	\$35,602.47