



BURLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
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P.O. Box 1379
34 Library Lane
Burlington, CT 06013
860.673.3331
Fax 860.673.0897
www.burlingtonctlibrary.info

March 30, 2015

Dear Senator Bye and the Appropriations Committee:

We are gravely concerned about Governor Malloy's budget. While we understand that the deficit is larger than first reported, we wonder if the Governor or the Appropriations Committee understands what will happen to public libraries if these cuts are put in place.

We are a small library and we are used to being frugal. The cuts that Governor Malloy has been suggesting will have dire effects on this library. If Connecticut and Connecticard is not funded then our role in a 30 library consortium will be decimated. We will not be able to lend to or borrow from any of the CT libraries. Taxpayers will lose due to Connecticard cuts. They saved \$68M in 2014 by borrowing and not buying 4.5 million items.

If Connecticut Library Consortium's (CLC) budget is reduced because they are no longer supported by the State Library then this will adversely affect public libraries and their ability to provide more materials to our constituents. CLC will no longer be able to save taxpayer dollars through coordinated services and purchasing efficiencies. If CLC is cut, taxpayers will lose \$7.1M annually because of CLC cuts. **What does this mean for us? Last year (2014) the Burlington Public Library saved \$20,000 by buying materials at a discount.** That is a huge savings for Burlington. Our materials budget from the town is only \$30,000, so this savings allows us to buy more materials. If CLC is not funded by the State Library, then they will not be able to offer the services or discounts that we have relied on for many years.

Not part of the State Library budget but equally important, is Connecticut Education Network (CEN). CEN provides us with free internet service which allows our patron's free access to information and the ability to apply for jobs online. We are about to start a 3 million dollar renovation, and hope to put in fiber optics so that the service to our patrons will be faster than DSL. We need to be able to rely on CEN for our internet service.

Please take the time to review these cuts and what they mean to libraries.

Respectfully yours,

Marie Spratlin Hasskarl, Library Director
email: mshasskarl@libraryconnection.info