{Your Organization Name}

{Your Organization address}

Representative/Senator {Last\_Name}

State House

24 Beacon Street, Room #{Room Number}

Boston, MA 02133

{date}

SUBJECT: Support for Funding for Massachusetts Libraries

Dear Representative/Senator {Last\_Name}

I live in your district and am writing to ask for your support in making funding for library services a priority in this year’s budget. Library services are less than 1% of the budget and are desperately overdue for increased funding.

There are three items I would like you to support:

**State Aid to Regional Libraries, line item 7000-9401.** The funding for this line has decreased 41% since 2002. This money supports the delivery services of the Mass Library System which make interlibrary loans possible. The delivery costs have risen exponentially due to salary increases and transportation-related expenses while the budget for these services has decreased. Cuts have been made to this vital service and fewer deliveries are being made. This line item also supports the **Library for the Commonwealth (LFC)**, which provides online services, collections, and databases for libraries throughout the state. My organization is a member of **Digital Commonwealth (digitalcommonwealth.org, digitalcommonwealth.wildapricot.org)**, the organization which works in partnership with the Boston Public Library to make digitization and preservation of Massachusetts’ cultural heritage possible. Without sufficient funding, these efforts will be unable to continue.

**Library Technology and Resource Sharing, line item 7000-9506.** As dependence on technology increases, funding for this line has decreased 36% since 2001. In a state that considers itself to be a leader in technology, this is unacceptable.

**The Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program** which falls under this item,needs $250 million for 18 construction projects currently on the waiting list as well as funding for a new construction grant round.

And lastly, please support the **Board of Library Commissioners** and **State Aid to Public Libraries** line items **7000-9101 and 7000-9501**, both of which directly affect our libraries.

Thank you so much for your help. I appreciate the work you do for the Commonwealth and your support for Massachusetts’ libraries.

Sincerely

{Your Name}

{Town}, MA