



Rhode Island Library Association

January 18, 2009

President
Christopher LaRoux
Vice-President
Laura Marlane
Secretary
Jenifer Bond
Treasurer
Cindy Lunghofer
NELA Councilor
Adrienne Gallo
ALA Councilor
David Macksam
Members-at-Large
Janet Levesque
Robert Kelly

To: Senator Jack Reed:

Libraries and librarians offer free and equal access to information and computers, and are critical community assets, especially during this time of economic hardship. Library usage has increased since the start of the current recession. People are flocking to libraries to use computers to find and apply for jobs, apply for food stamps and other forms of assistance, as well as to borrow books and movies free of charge and to attend free programs. Librarians are expected to assist the public with finding jobs, writing resumes, and teaching how to interview for jobs. Increasingly the library is taking the place of and supplanting state and federal job assistance agencies.

Funding for libraries included in an economic stimulus package could help to ensure that our libraries are able to sustain current activities and even expand critical efforts to help people deal with the current economic situation. We are asking that you support funding for libraries to be used for staffing and programs, in addition to construction of "shovel ready" projects. We especially need money:

1. To expand critical assistance to job-seekers, such as resume development, job bank web searches, and workshops on career information.
2. To promote financial literacy, housing counseling, and small business development activities.
3. To acquire additional resources and materials to help keep up with increased demand for services and make them available nationwide.
4. To complete construction jobs that are "shovel ready" but cash void.

Your immediate attention is requested to this very serious library funding issue.

Sincerely,

Christopher La Roux – President
Director
Greenville Public Library

Cindy Lunghofer – Treasurer
Assistant Director
East Providence Public Library

Members At Large:
Janet Levesque
Director
Cumberland Pub Lib.

Laura Marlane – Vice-President
Director
Central Falls Public Library

Adrienne Gallo – NELA Councilor
Branch Librarian of Oaklawn
Cranston Public Library

Robert Kelly
Collections Lib.
Redwood Athenaeum

RILA ∞ PO Box 6765 ∞ Providence, RI 02940
www.rilibraryassoc.org



Rhode Island Library Association

Jenifer Bond – Secretary
Assistant Director
Bryant University Library

David Macksam – ALA Councilor
Director
Cranston Public Library

*RILA ∞ PO Box 6765 ∞ Providence, RI 02940
www.rilibraryassoc.org*