



# Rhode Island Library Association

February 4, 2009

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Honorable Jack Reed  
United States Senate  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Library Association, I strongly urge you to amend S. 1, page 396, line 13 to read as follows:

*SEC. 1402. State Uses of Funds  
(b) Other Government Services.*

*For each fiscal year, the Governor may use up to 39 percent of the State's allocation under section 1301 for public safety and other government services, which may include assistance for elementary and secondary education, public institutions of higher education **and public libraries.***

By including the words "and public libraries" to this legislation, libraries would have access to funding that would enable them to move forward with shovel-ready projects.

Our public libraries are being used more heavily as the recession worsens. Rhode Islanders are flocking to their public libraries for assistance finding jobs, writing resumes, accessing public assistance, and to borrow books and movies they can no longer afford to purchase. They are using our computers and high speed Internet connections and their children are attending our after-school programs and pre-school story hours. We have several library projects that are ready to go, except for a lack of funding. It is imperative that public libraries be included in the Senate economic recovery bill, so that we can continue to provide vital services to the public now and for years to come.

Rhode Islanders are counting on you and would appreciate your action on this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher LaRoux  
President, Rhode Island Library Association  
Director, Greenville Public Library 401-949-3630 ext. 117

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