



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Subject: Public Comments Received for the October 8 business meeting
Date: October 6, 2025

The following comments were submitted to the State Library Commission.

Nancy Royan, Cascade, MT

wedsworth.library@gmail.com

After attending several of the State Library Commission's meeting and hearing that the Commission has stated that they welcome public comments; I would like to offer some comments on some of the proposed actions and comments made during meetings. The Commission might not understand the need for many libraries to have easy and reliable access to legal help. Our Library doesn't have easy access to an attorney. The County attorney here is too busy to talk to us and generally ignores us. The Town's attorney can't be accessed by anyone other than the Town Council. (Town's law) So we can't access the legal help the State Commission feels is readily available. So, a little consultation with Kris Goss about Law is beneficial and valuable. Our library has no money for legal assistance. Maybe the bigger libraries do with their foundations. Where do we turn to when the legal issue is library against Town Council/Board or County? We have a very small budget with no financial help from a Foundation or Friends. We are not alone in the Library world with this challenge. The mandates the State Library Commission is proposing for Continuing Education cannot keep up with the current up-to-date needs for libraries. The training that libraries have access to through other resources and MLA is just as relevant as the restrictive proposed CE training by the Commission. I believe I have a better understand of my educational needs to perform my job than the members of the State Library Commission. I have found valuable knowledge attending training through PNLA and MLA training sessions. What is pertinent for a Director of Bozeman is not pertinent for me as a one-person library. In the Commission's mind (if I understand the comments), we will still be allowed to access other training at our cost. However, it will be hard to validate this extra expense in a budget (even though this education maybe more appropriate for my position) if it does not count toward CE credits. My budget is pretty small. I do not see any advantage to the proposed change. It is a loss of freedom on library personnel. The proposed restrictive CE training is equivalent to telling people they can only read Authors A, B, C, and D. I cannot agree with the statement made at the last State Library Commission meeting: "That Library Boards are inbred groups". I question the Commission's concept of Library reality. Our Library has to beg people and practically drag someone off the street to join us when we have a vacancy. It would be beneficial to all Libraries across the state of Montana if the Commission would pause a moment or two and consider the Library world through the eyes of



the people who face the daily challenges of a Library. Consider our thoughts on what we feel we need, as we have a very vested interest in all changes of our world.