

June 22, 2007

To: Darlene Staffeldt, Don Allen, MSL Commissioners, Christie Briggs, Jim Hill, Sue Crispen, Sue Jackson, Bob Cooper, Kris Schmitz, Sara Groves, Julie Stewart and staff of the Montana State Library

Libraries are vital to the mainstay of rural Montana. We can be so thankful that we as Montanans have such visionary thinkers and leaders diligently working for us at the Montana State Library. A team of people who have a desire and determination to stay ahead of the wave by offering up the very best of themselves so that all of the citizens of the state can have an abundance of quality resources and information at their fingertips and at their local library.

Meeting the many library directors and staff from libraries all around Montana I learned that they all have one thing in common - they really care about their patrons. Montana's libraries, no matter how large or how small, have such a desire to fulfill the vast array of needs of their people. That's what the Montana library community is all about... offering up their best.

It has been an honor to work with you these past few years, to put energy into something that has so much value for so many, you have provided me with many opportunities to serve the people of Montana. My time on the commission has been rich and I have learned so much from all of you. The best organizations are ones that have people working in them that have a passion for what they do. There is a sense of tranquility that comes from knowing that you've had a hand in something of intrinsic excellence.

I wish the best to my successor and hope that your term provides you with such great opportunities as mine has for me.

I can't help myself but to conclude with.....

*"A good library will never be too neat or too dusty a place because somebody will always be in it taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them.."* -  
Lemony Snicket

Sincerely,

Caroline Bitz