

June 4, 2017

Bruce Newell,

Chair, Montana State Library Commission

Chairman Newell,

These are my public comments related to the Montana State Library's draft plans for reducing budget expenditures related to recent HB2 and SB261 mandates. I will not be able to attend the June 6th meeting however I expect these will be presented to the Commission at that time. I am available for a more detailed discussion of these points with you if you think that would be helpful. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

1. From a budget perspective cutting four of the Digital Library's GIS Analysts appears unwarranted. The FY2018 MLIA funds of \$570,000 flowing to MSL, based on the budget in the FY2018 Land Plan for Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) stewardship and State GIS Coordination, are not impacted by vacancy savings, cuts to HB2 or the triggers mandated by SB261. However GIS analyst staffing is being reduced by 40%, from 10 to 6. It is very difficult to tell from the power point provided, and I could be misinterpreting the budget, however this appears to be some sort of budget game where the Digital Library is cutting \$91,884 of available MLIA funds so the overall reductions in the Digital Library budget required by SB261 triggers are met. Maybe it is just me but "giving back" that amount to the MLIA account, potentially compromising the maintenance of the most used MSDI Flagship Cadastral Database, and scheduling Mr. Keith Blount for a reduction in force, seems more than a little odd.
 - a. I am aware of at least portions of the justification for Mr. Blount's RIF status and I can say with assuredness that MSL management does not understand the nature of the entirety of the "cadastral database" or of the institutional knowledge that Mr. Blount possesses. The current justification was so contrived it was obvious management was trying to cover their decision rather than analyze and **quantify** knowledge, skills and abilities of the entire staff. The cadastral database has 4 major components, geodetic control, ownership parcels, administrative boundaries (all MSDI themes) as well as the Public Land Survey System/CadNSDI and from a usage standpoint is the poster child of the MSDI databases. It also has other minor components such as public lands, conservation easements and managed areas that will be impacted if Mr. Blount is laid off. I can say without hesitation, with over 20 years of managing a production GIS program, that Mr. Blount has more GIS expertise than any of the staff being retained. From an information service perspective Mr. Blount provides more actual outreach to federal, state, and local cadastral providers, as well as answering general patron cadastral requests, than any of the other staff. This layoff has the distinct odor of age discrimination.
2. The NRIS program, from a GIS perspective is essentially dead with the loss of all three GIS analysts. This brings up additional financial questions that are not answered in the power point. For example, what is the funding for the NRIS GIS staff being repurposed for? What exactly is the NRIS program today? Has there been any consultation with the partner agencies through the NRIS Advisory Council. It does not appear that MSL, based on the NAC website, has had any active interaction with the NAC since 2012. Should those funds be returned to the partner agencies? And if the retained GIS Analyst staff are asked to perform NRIS related functions, should the MLIA portion of their funding be reduced?
3. MLIA funds were budgeted in the FY18 Land Information Plan to fund 6 GIS positions, a State GIS Coordinator and 5 GIS Analysts who were to be working exclusively on the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure. With the announcement that Mr. Blount, steward of the Cadastral database, is to be laid off what is to become of the afore-mentioned \$91,884? Will it be made available so another agency or private sector firm who might augment cadastral stewardship? It should also be noted that the Montana Land Information Advisory Council should have ample time to inquire as to what MSDI theme work may be compromised and whether alternative allocation of portions of MLIA funding is warranted. I

am not aware as to whether the MLIAC has been informed of this draft plan although it is my assumption that they have not.

4. Having formerly been the State GIS Coordinator for more than 15 years, along with managing a staff of 9 GIS analysts at the point of my retirement from MSL, I can say with great assuredness that the GIS coordination that is required to support both the MLIA act and the MLIAC requires no more than 30 % of an FTE. The rest of my time was spent managing staff and budget, and providing the vision and project management for MSDI related projects. These are no longer functions that the State Coordinator is tasked with. Attempting to actually coordinate with federal agencies has become extremely difficult, state agencies do what they wish, and local governments and tribal nations require more technical advice from subject matter experts than any sort of coordination. MSL has no authority to actually tell any of these potential partners what to do. Assuming the layoffs take place as detailed, hopefully the State GIS Coordinator can pick up some of the MSDI data slack that will result from the loss of 4 GIS staff.
5. Assuming this transpires as planned, the Digital Library should employ some sort of triage scenario to prioritize what can be done. It doesn't require my 28 years of GIS experience for the Library Commission to realize that not everything that has been done in the past can be done in the future. In fact the Commission recommends that MSL "Ensure what we will continue to do, we will do well". Not all the MSDI themes currently stewarded by MSL and the Heritage Program, can be maintained (Transportation and Geographic Names being prime examples but probably Landcover and Wetlands as well). The best possible move for management to make, is to pick 2 or 3 things that can be done well, perhaps the Water Information System, Cadastral and Addresses, and provide patrons current data that is of better quality than is available elsewhere. The Digital Library needs to be honest with patrons, the MLIAC, and the NRIS partner agencies even if that results in additional funding losses. I have heard rumors that management is not planning this type of prioritization, saying that maintenance and enhancement may just be done slower, or less frequently. The Digital Library, from a GIS perspective, might as well put a gun to its head if this is the approach.

The GIS functions of the Digital Library are on a precipice, and a death spiral scenario is perfectly foreseeable if data quality is compromised. Patrons will simply find other sources of data, the Digital Library will become increasingly irrelevant and the spiral of decline will accelerate. Loss of all but minimal internal Library GIS capability within four years is a perfectly plausible scenario. Even retained staff will jump from what will be seen as a sinking ship and staff morale at this point is low already. When the Base Map Service Center was transferred from the DOA to MSL, MSL was handed a Mercedes (albeit with some monthly payment problems). Well the Mercedes is up on blocks now, perhaps never to return to the road, but possibly a serviceable Subaru can be salvaged with proper management. These positions are not coming back and it is clear that the Digital Library is not exactly well positioned politically to recover. Some immediate decisions on what can continue to be done well, and what needs to be jettisoned, is paramount to even keeping the Subaru running.

Respectfully,

Stewart Kirkpatrick
Principal, Locafocus LLC
stewart@locafocus.com (406-459-0031)

From: Maxell, Bryce
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 2:33 PM
To: Stapp, Jennie; Hammer, Evan
Subject: FW: Funding for State Library data - user fee

FYI.

Bryce A. Maxell
Program Coordinator
Montana Natural Heritage Program <http://mtnhp.org>
P.O. Box 201800, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620-1800
(406) 444-3989 (office) | (406) 461-1279 (cell) | (406) 444-0266 (fax)
bmaxell@mt.gov

From: John Beaver [mailto:JBeaver@westech-env.com]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 2:28 PM
To: Maxell, Bryce <BMaxell@mt.gov>
Subject: FW: Funding for State Library data - user fee

Below is what I sent the commissioners.

John Beaver
WESTECH Environmental Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 6045 | Helena, MT | 59604
Office 406.442.0950 | Cell 406.459.4150
WESTECH-ENV.COM

From: John Beaver
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2017 2:27 PM
To: 'kenning.arlitsch@montana.edu'; 'elsie.arntzen@mt.gov';
'ceissngr@midrivers.com';
'annekish@gmail.com'; 'alafromboise@bfcc.edu';
'bruce.newell@gmail.com';
'kwall@geodataservicesinc.com'
Subject: Funding for State Library data - user fee

Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for the on-line data that are available from the Montana State Library. My small business relies on on-line data from a variety of sources across the United States. My staff and I have always been impressed, amazed really, at the quality of the data at the Montana State Library both in terms of quantity, quality, and digital organization. Truly Montana's data sets are superior to any other states, including large states such as California and Washington.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that Montana State Library data save large infrastructure and

energy projects hundreds of thousands of dollars in high-level analysis because there is no need for on-the-ground data collection.

Although I philosophically appreciate free, public information, I think it is entirely appropriate for large-scale projects to pay for data. My company doesn't blink an eye at a \$100-500 fee in other states. I think a scaled fee for the size of the project is an option if small, private landowners cannot afford a fee. Perhaps data are free for projects under 100 acres - a size that would probably cover many citizen-level requests. On the other end, perhaps any request over 1,000 acres is charged a \$250 fee.

Clearly, the public is paying for these data through tax dollars funneled through agencies. However, private corporations are often not paying for the data in any fashion. To have well-organized, comprehensive data in a single data package is worth a lot more than \$250 to any project where hourly rates for GIS analysts and engineers are usually well over \$100 per hour.

The Montana datasets are cumulatively worth millions of dollars to projects each year. Those data need to be managed and updated. It would be a colossal disappointment if the quality of Montana's data decreased because the Governor or legislature did not allocate enough funding simply because they misunderstand the utility of those data to industry and the Montana economy. If a fee is required to access the data, that money is well spent.

Sincerely,

John Beaver
WESTECH Environmental Services, Inc.
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WESTECH-ENV.COM

From: Bruce Newell <bruce.newell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 9:44 AM
To: Stapp, Jennie
Subject: Letter from Kris Larson

[I had to cut and paste it into this format, because for some reason it was rejected by the state's email server as being too big. Kris sent it as a pdf. A 15 MB pdf. I am surprised.]

DATE: June 6, 2017

TO: Montana State Library Commission

FROM: Kris Larson
560 Sparta Street
Helena, MT 59601
k.larson@Q.com, 406-459-3437

RE: Montana State Library Budget Cuts

It is with a heavy heart that I received an email yesterday morning describing the Proposed Budget Cuts to the Montana State Library and learned of your meeting today.

My initial reaction was that we are not only going to lose the institutional memory at MSL, but that the years of GIS/technical skills that are being let go will never be able to be replaced by someone with less experience. If money is found or comes back in a few years, this history/experience will already be gone.

I am asking -no, I am begging -you to think outside the box. Brainstorm! Be wildly creative! In my brief opportunity to talk to others, someone suggested trying to get partial funding for MSL from a variety of State agencies. All State agencies use the services of the Montana State Library.

Another thought I had this morning was a public/private partnership. For example, right now in Helena - and in many of our larger towns - the real estate market is booming. Houses regularly stay on the market for less than a week and sell for significantly more than the asking price. Why not work with the realtors that use the Cadastral data on a daily basis to partially fund the program?

A friend noted that it would be very beneficial if you/MSL announced the positions or MSDI themes that will be affected as soon as possible. It would help us when considering public/private partnerships and other ideas. It would be especially helpful if you opt to approach other State agencies, because the new

fiscal year begins July 1 and agencies can still alter the budget.

I've had less than 24 hours to digest this shocking news and I am only writing as a concerned citizen with a plateful of other obligations and commitments. I'm sure that in your position, you will have much more time to put careful thought into this and you will certainly have many more creative ideas.

My contact information is above. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this or if I can help in any way.

If you do value public input, consider announcing commission meetings as widely as possible. I realize that this is phenomenally challenging in these times. For example, I don't subscribe to the newspaper or use social media. I get all of my local news from the radio. I did not hear about MSL on the radio however. I received an email from the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals (MAGIP) listserve. Maybe at times like this it is worth going that extra mile to reach as many people as possible as soon as possible?

From: Bruce&Joy Breslauer <breslauerj@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 10:23 PM
To: Stapp, Jennie; kken@loc.gov
Cc: bruce&Joy
Subject: Montana State Library Commission Public Comments

I think these proposed budget cuts are unfortunate, although I understand why they are being proposed, to comply with budget cuts in House bill 2, passed by the 2017 Montana legislature.

Since the Montana State Library is a relatively small agency in the first place, cutting staff and reorganizing their duties will put an added stress on those that remain. My dealings with the staff have always been cordial, and I have always found them to be knowledgeable and professional. Having been laid off almost two years ago from my own job, I feel this personally. I don't like to see people so dedicated and so qualified lose their jobs unnecessarily. I am particularly pleased with the Talking Book Library service, having been a patron of theirs for years. If these budget cuts go through, I think we will do the best we can with what we have left, and my hope is that this budget cutting cycle will indeed be a cycle, and will eventually swing up again. I feel that budget cuts like these are being put on the backs of those who can least afford them, on the whim of those who don't feel them in their everyday lives. It's unfortunate when the bottom line overrules common sense, and governs the quality of people's lives.

I am speaking as an individual, and not a representative of any group or organization.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joy Breslauer, President
National Federation of the Blind of Montana

Live the life you want

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

Montana State Library Commission
1515 E. 6th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

June 9, 2017

Dear Chairman Newell and members of the Commission,

Members of the Montana Library Association (MLA) were present at the listening session for the proposed budget cuts to the Montana State Library's budget on Tuesday, June 6. The Association was concerned by some of the talk of fees being assessed for services such as the Montana Talking Book Library, and for-profit businesses being charged for the use of GIS data available at the Montana State Library. We fear that these discussions are a slippery slope for all public libraries in the state. Public libraries have long held to the core mission and value of "free for all" ensuring that haves and have-nots have equal access to the information needed.

The recent painful cuts to library funding, both to the Montana State Library and to all Montana public libraries due to the unfortunate amendments made to HB 261, might lead some to believe that fees for service would be the way to bolster funding. It is understandable that, in a time of revenue shortfalls and budget cuts, this value should be challenged. It is at this time that we must stand firm on our values. Taxpayers, library patrons, and local authorities provide the bulk of public library funding. The collections we administer are already paid for by the public through tax dollars. A fee for service at the public library, as well as the Montana State Library, would be redundant, unfair, and impose an undue burden on users.

MLA has long regarded the neutral, non-regulatory position of the Montana State Library as the backbone of the value in the data they provide. Charging fees would fundamentally change the nature of their good work in ways both real and perceived.

We believe that if the Montana State Library charges fees, these fees would become the norm and the expectation of lawmakers. This expectation would create a fee-based future that would not easily be undone. It would ruin the whole idea of a free-for-all public library system in Montana. The other obvious slippery slope for the Montana State Library and all Montana public libraries would be the cost of administering the fees. The costs involved in collecting fees would likely be substantial and would eat into any revenue generated.

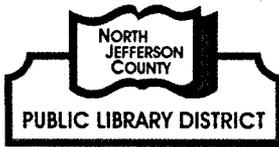
If there are major users of the State Library's GIS data who have the ability to contribute monies, MLA believes these users are better off working with the Montana State Library to create an endowment which has significant positive long-term opportunities with little of the risks associated with fee collection.

The Montana Library Association membership urges the Commission to be thoughtful and think through all implications of a potential fee for-use-plan to augment the Montana State Library during this time of budget crisis. Changes considered may not be able to be reversed at a later date and will certainly have negative impacts for all library institutions in Montana.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson
Montana Library Association President



North Jefferson County Public Library District Board of Trustees
3 N. Main St. Clancy, MT 59634 406-933-5254
<https://sites.google.com/site/northjeffersoncountylibraries>
Bringing people and information together.

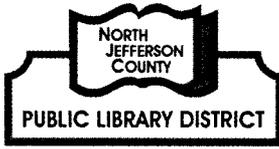
We, the trustees of the North Jefferson County Public Library Board, are voicing our support of the Montana State Library. Our State Library is an essential and remarkable organization. As a public library district board, we regularly communicate with and depend on our State Library for advice, training, resources, collaborative opportunities, and foresighted leadership.

Our State Library is a major connector of libraries across the state. The Montana library community is not only a geographically and socioeconomically diverse group—but we are also a lot of different types of libraries serving different populations (specials, schools, academics, and various sizes of publics.) We all might be libraries; however, we all have different concerns, viewpoints, and needs. We joke that our State Library staff are expert cat herders! They help us learn from one another and work together in mutually beneficial ways.

The North Jefferson County Library District Trustees have built a strong relationship with our State Library. About a decade ago, the area our library board serves (the North Jefferson County communities) established a library district and elected a library board. As current trustees, we know that our communities worked through that process legally, smoothly, and successfully by partnering with our State Library staff. Our communities now have two flourishing libraries, and we act as an open, transparent, and effective library board in large part due to the support and education our founders received (and we continue to receive) from our State Library.

Each year our State Library provides us, as trustees, opportunities to connect with other trustees, learn from other libraries, and become a better more effective library board. When we have questions or encounter unknown territory, we are able to call on our State Library and the network they've built to think through and make wise decisions. We depend on the systems our State Library has built through the Montana Shared Catalog and through the Annual Statistics databases to make most effective use of the tax monies entrusted to our care. We try to be as responsible, legal, professional, and responsive as we can in order to best serve our communities, schools, and families. Without our State Library, we would not be as capable or effective.

As we invest in launching another Summer Reading Program that attracts over 200 young people from our small communities, we know summer reading programs have been found to have a positive, lasting impact on their participants' literacy skills and academic success. We are grateful for our State Library's assistance through public awareness and literacy support as well as the Collaborative Summer Reading Program. Our State Library provides the platform for our libraries to connect, to create awareness and share ideas, and to build lasting relationships and partnerships that raise the effectiveness of our libraries.



North Jefferson County Public Library District Board of Trustees
3 N. Main St. Clancy, MT 59634 406-933-5254
<https://sites.google.com/site/northjeffersoncountylibraries>
Bringing people and information together.

The North Jefferson County Library District's two libraries are both members of the Montana Shared Catalog, the Four Rivers Partner Group, the Montana Memory Project, the Montana Library 2 Go Consortium, and the Montana Courier Alliance. These collaborative projects (built and launched through the leadership, support, and expertise of our State Library) are participant-library driven and an essential part of our libraries' services. Our patrons have come to love and depend on these high quality, nationally regarded collaborations. Because of the success and effectiveness of these collaborations—our Montana library community (regardless of type or location) has a hunger to work together and a confidence that our efforts will make all of us (and Montana's families and communities we serve) better.

In our dealing with various government organizations, our State Library stands out for its excellence. It is lean management at its finest and provides a highly effective government agency. Over the last few years we have been concerned by cuts to our State Library's resources; however, with the heart of true public servants, our State Library staff continues to create more value for our library board, our community as well as Montana's other organizations and the communities they serve.

As trustees of the North Jefferson County Library District, we can say unequivocally that our Montana State Library is essential to our board, our libraries, and North Jefferson County communities. We respectfully request that our State Library's important work and proven excellence be rewarded with full, secure, and stable funding.

North Jefferson County Public Library District Board of Trustees:

Jane Hamman, chair

Beth McNamara, vice-chair

Mari Jean Bellander, trustee

Marty Clark, trustee

Lynora Rogstad, trustee

Jennie Stapp
State Librarian
Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620
Jstapp2@mt.gov

June 7, 2017

Dear Jennie,

I'm writing in continuing support of the Montana State Library system and your exceptional leadership. I am very disappointed that revenue estimates continue to come in lower than expected and that it may impact your program. I am sorry that as a legislator and bill sponsor I wasn't able to ensure that state library funding over this biennium wasn't more secure

I want to make sure that everyone involved in decisions that will result from budget stabilization understands how important libraries are to our culture, economy and well-being. As you know libraries contribute to economic development in many ways. They are an attractive neighborhood amenity and are often part of core redevelopment areas. Libraries offer critical early literacy classes to get young children ready to read before they actually enter school. It offers a safe place for teens to go after school and offers classes and programs for all ages. As seen in both Bozeman and Billings, public libraries are catalysts for physical re-development in a downtown.

Some of the most successful entrepreneurs in our history gave their time and treasure to ensure the future of these institutions as they recognized how important they would be to the success of our democracy. Libraries are learning centers that help improve the future of our young people is bright and they serve as community centers in an electronic age. As a former law enforcement officer I can attest to the important role that libraries play in promoting positive outcomes for people in communities and rural areas across our state.

I want you to know that I stand in steadfast support of the many programs your libraries provide and the community benefits that result. I stand ready to help you in any way that I can to promote your programs and support continued funding for our state library system.

Sincerely,

Frank Garner
Montana House of Representatives
House District 7
Box 10176
Kalispell, MT 59904

Michael Downey

1620 Ohio Ave, Helena, MT 59601

406-465-3616 (Cell) mdowney31@gmail.com

Montana State Library Commission
C/O Jennie Stapp
1515 E Sixth Ave
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800

June 2, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the fall-out of HB 261 and the effect of that bill on the budget, staffing, and services provided by the Montana State Library.

As a long time user of a variety of library services provided through the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) and the Natural Heritage Program, I cannot emphasize enough how critical the information provided through these programs has been to my work. Apart from the availability of the many data sets supported by NRIS and Heritage, the fact that these data sets are current and complete is critical to their applicability.

In light of the draconian cuts mandated by HB 261, I believe it is time for the State Library to consider charging for the valuable services they provide. As a GIS coordinator for the Montana Land Reliance, I used the Montana Cadastral Service on a near daily basis. The data provided was critical to our organization's work. The development of Resource Documentation Reports would have been much more time consuming and costly absent the data and services of the Natural Heritage Program. These are valuable services that are critical to the work of many in the private, non-profit, and governmental sectors alike. Recently, the USGS, faced with unsustainable budget cuts to their stream gaging program, proposed closing several popular USGS stream gage sites. The public outcry soon resulted in the restoration of funding necessary to operate these sites. I think the state library is at a similar crossroads.

I recognize there are difficult decisions facing you in overcoming this budget crunch. I urge you to avoid the temptation to cut the staff responsible for maintaining the many important data sets supported by the MSL. Better that you cut services to the public while maintaining the integrity of the data along with the underlying infrastructure that supports it.

Regards,

Michael Downey

Bruce,

I'm more than disappointed at the results of the public comment period as well as the article in the Helena IR about the MSL budget problems. There are alternative solutions but as long as MSL management is driving the process then the Library Commission as well as the Montana Land Information Advisory Council do not have the correct information to address the problem.

[REDACTED]

A very real solution to this is to eliminate the Digital Library, which is just a contrived name hatched up years ago, to imply there is more to a library than just books. But those days are over and everything is digital.

[REDACTED]

As things changed, and it became evident that in order to save our jobs we needed to leave DOA, I agreed to support the transfer of the State GIS to MSL. When we moved, the NRIS program was close to dead. I was able to resurrect the program to some extent but now we know that, while MSL continues to accept funding, there is no NRIS program (just check the websites).

Additionally, the State GIS Coordinator position now has little management authority and is essentially a wasted position because of the the digital library reorganization of fall 2016.

So I guess the Library Commission can just let this all go and acquiesce to the MSL management plan. But if that is the case you can count on my opposition vocally in opinion letters across the state. I'm friends with several state contractors who are familiar with the MSL situation and have expressed the opinion that the State Librarian is not held in high regard with either the Governor or the Governor's budget office. This is not going to be improved in the next budget cycle and could get worse under a Republican Governor.

Instead of laying off GIS analyst positions the correct plan of action would be to lay off the Digital Library manager. At that point, move the appropriate library programs such as talking books to the Statewide Library Resources program along with any user service staff. Separate out MSDI, NRIS and Water Information into one program with one manager as it was when I was with the Library. While I recognize that in Montana there is no agency or program that wants to assume the responsibility for state GIS data development it is also true that in no other state does it fall under the purview of the State Library. If the Library Commission does not address this issue then it is only a matter of time before this fails. Neither the State Librarian or the Digital Library Manager is qualified to fix this situation long term unless a competent GIS manager is put in place. But unless there are alternative solutions proposed by the Library Commission I am prepared to launch a campaign that lets the Montana voter know the truth about the incompetent MSL management.

Stewart Kirkpatrick

Principle, LocaFocus LLC

Phone: 406-459-0031

Email: stewart@locafocusllc.com

Web: locafocusllc.com

To the Montana State Library Leadership Team and Commission:

I want to add my voice to the public comments regarding the budget cuts that MSL is facing. I was not able to attend the public hearing last week, but have listened to the recording.

I take very seriously all the heartfelt comments that were made about the various programs that are facing cuts. However, I think it is important to remember that neither the Library nor the Commission want any of these cuts to happen, but are merely responding as best as they can to a situation that was imposed upon them. I would not want anyone to be left with the impression that any library program is benefiting at the expense of another, or that any program is more important than any other. I believe that the Library Leadership and the Commission are doing the very best they can to minimize the pain and damage across the programs, and yet painful and damaging it no doubt will be.

I think Gerry Daumiller hit the nail on the head when he said that it is not the Library Commission who should be hearing all this testimony, but the Legislature, and I would add the Governor and his Budget Director should be hearing it as well. I would encourage the Library and the Commission to take every available opportunity to educate their patrons and the public on what happened and why and how it happened, and where they can direct their comments in order to make the value of the State Library and all of its programs known to those that hold power over state budgeting decisions.

Sincerely,
Karen Coleman
Montana Natural Heritage Program Employee
MAGIP Member

From: LBPH [mailto:lbph-bounces@listsmart.osl.state.or.us] **On Behalf Of** Greg Kearney

Sent: Monday, June 12, 2017 7:29 AM

To: lbph <lbph@listsmart.osl.state.or.us>

Subject: [LBPH] Cartoon on the situation in Montana

A cartoon on the situation in Montana with the library for the blind in that state from the Missoulian newspaper.

The cartoon show a blind woman labeled "State Library for the Blind" with her is a guide dog labeled "Montana" the dog is urinating on the woman's leg. This ran in a recent issue of the Missoulian over the weekend.

