

315 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Livingston, MT 59047

April 9, 2025

Mr. Brian Rossmann  
Commissioner of Higher Education Appointee  
PO Box 173320  
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear Mr. Rossmann:

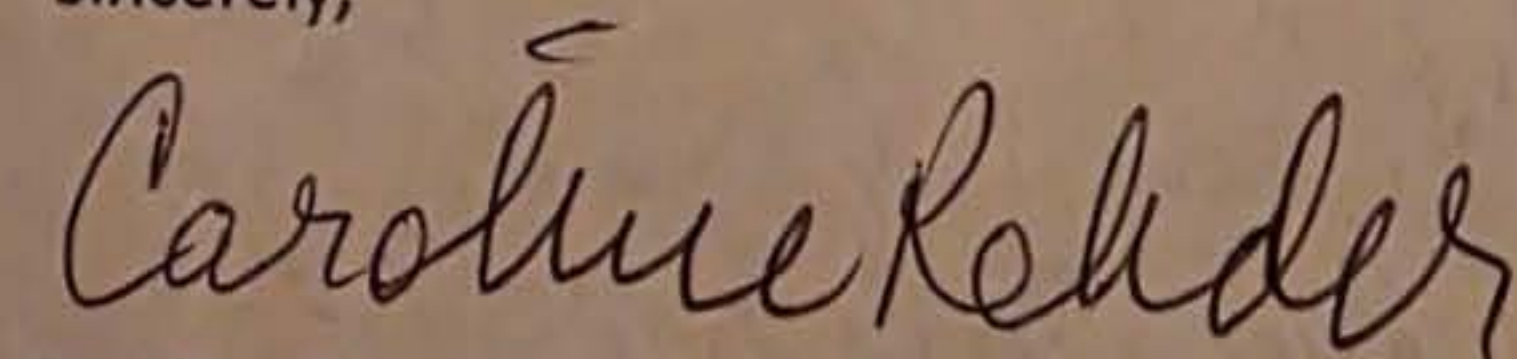
I am writing to ask you to oppose the defunding of The Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS). It is my understanding that if Montana libraries were to lose funding from IMLS, it would greatly affect patrons' ability to request books through the Montana Shared Catalog and would limit the funding for the Libby platform which allows patrons to loan digital and audio books. The interlibrary loan and digital services through Libby are important resources in my life.

I frequently use the interlibrary loan service to request books that I want to read that are not available in my home library in Livingston. Most times I do not wish to purchase the book, and the interlibrary loan service is an economical and efficient way for me to acquire the books that I am interested in reading.

The audiobook service through Libby is as important or possibly more important to me. I travel a lot for my work and enjoy listening to audio books in the car. I recently listened to "Where the Red Fern Grows" which I had never read as a student. What a wonderful book about faith, love, family, hard work and loyalty. I would probably never have read the book if I was not able to loan it through Libby. In addition, my family enjoys listening to audiobooks when we travel. It is a great way to pass the time and have an activity that will engage the whole family.

I would ask you to support the valuable services that the funds from IMLS support. They help our local library stay current in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Abraham Lincoln, as a self-educated man said, "All I have learned, I learned through books." Please help the library continue to support my family's learning.

Sincerely,



Caroline Rehder