TO: MEMBERS OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FROM: CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
DATE: MARCH 1, 2011

The nearly 1,000 members of the Connecticut Library Association work in all Connecticut libraries, including academic libraries, school libraries, corporate and law firm libraries, and local public libraries. We are all fully committed to providing equitable access to the highest quality educational and research materials for all residents of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Library Association greatly appreciates the assistance and guidance that our members receive from the experienced professionals who work for our State Library in Hartford, and we submit this testimony in strong support of the State Library’s budget.

A significant portion of the State Library’s budget is dedicated to providing services and programs for local libraries across Connecticut. For many years, the State Library – through its innovative programs – has strongly promoted efficiency, resource sharing and cooperation among Connecticut’s libraries. We respectfully contend that our library programs are among the best examples of Regional Cooperation that exist here in Connecticut, or anywhere else for that matter.

Two example programs are Connecticard and the Interlibrary Loan Service—Connecticar. Through these two programs, Connecticut residents receive the benefits of a county library system, without the costly infrastructure!

- **Connecticard** provides reimbursements to each local library that loans its materials to residents of other towns. Connecticard allows a resident with a library card from his/her local library to use the library resources in any other town in Connecticut, without question. In its essence, Connecticard encourages a local library with extensive or unique resources to open its doors and share with the residents of any and all other towns. Connecticard truly is a shining example of Regional resource sharing among large Town/City libraries and small town libraries.

- **The Interlibrary Loan Service—Connecticar** allows borrowed books and materials to quickly and efficiently move across town lines from library to library. Again, the sole purpose of Connecticar is to encourage local and academic librarians to embrace regional cooperation by loaning books and materials to residents of all other towns, knowing that the books and materials will be efficiently returned to their original homes when residents have returned the items to any library of their choosing. This past year, 2.7 million items were delivered using the Connecticar service—the highest number in the program’s history!

The Connecticut Library Association is extremely proud of statewide library system’s history of cooperation and service. Our State Librarians are dedicated to supporting all of Connecticut’s libraries and the communities we serve. The increase in library circulation and library use generally refutes the popular belief that people are relying exclusively on the Internet for information and recreational reading. This is simply not the case as the surge in statistics shows!

Public, academic, corporate and law libraries all rely upon the services of the State Library to fulfill our missions. Our library system truly maintains and promotes an efficient and seamless regional and statewide network of cooperation and resource sharing.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE STATE LIBRARY BUDGET!