

Dear Assemblymember McDonald / Dear Senator Ashby,

I am writing to advocate for increased funding for New York State Libraries and for your support on several key bills this legislative session.

While the Governor's Executive Budget provides a slight increase in Library Aid (+\$748 thousand, to \$104.6 million), Construction Aid is cut by \$10 million (to \$34 million), and the New York Online Virtual Electronic Library (NOVELny) program is kept flat at last year's level (\$3 million). As library operating costs increase, this chronic under-funding jeopardizes libraries' ability to provide valuable services to the community. **We ask that you increase funding for NYS Libraries!**

Library Aid allows NYS Libraries like the East Greenbush Community Library to offer more books and online media and offer more services to the community like English for New Learners, Movie Nights, Music Performances and programs for children and youth. Construction Aid enables libraries to replace equipment and offer more services and spaces to library patrons and community members. The NOVELny program is a free online library of magazines, newspapers, and reference books available to all New Yorkers and has been a popular resource for patrons.

We are also advocating for key pieces of legislation to support libraries:

- **Open Shelves Act (S1100)** and the **Freedom to Read (S1099) Acts** will ensure that all libraries are able to curate and develop collections, services, and programming to reflect the interests of all people in the community that the library serves, including a wide array of developmentally appropriate materials in school libraries.
- **eBooks Licensing Reform (Reintroduction Pending)**, which would regulate contracts between libraries and publishers, affording library patrons across our state equitable access to the content they seek, eliminating industry specific pricing models that saddle libraries with exorbitant costs prohibiting the purchase of high demand titles.

I am joining with hundreds of advocates across the State to advocate for the legislative and budget priorities that will strengthen NYS Libraries, including my library: **the East Greenbush Community Library!**

I am advocating for The East Greenbush Community Library because:

Please continue to support NYS Libraries by increasing funding for NYS Operating and Construction Aid and supporting NOVELny! Thank you!

Signed Name

Printed Name