

October 14, 2020

Bruce Newell, Chair  
Montana State Library Commission  
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Governor Steven Bullock,

I write in strong support of the Legislative Finance Committee's two fixed cost recommendations for ensuring the State Library has the funding to accomplish its statutory mission. We support an:

1. Assessment of those state agencies using the Natural Resource Information system, based on the percent of ESRI enterprise license agreements for each state agency.
2. Assessment of all agencies, each of whom depend on the State Library for web site archival and general use of digital library services. This assessment would be based on each agencies' number of Microsoft active directory licenses.

The Legislative Finance Committee made these recommendations after studying options for funding the State Library, pursuant to House Bill 633. For reference, see: <https://leg.mt.gov/content/Publications/fiscal/2021-Interim/March-2020/Ed-Sub/MSL-Options-for-Funding.pdf>

The State Library Commission requests that you include these two recommendations in your House Bill 2 proposal. These recommendations, taken together, will adequately fund the State Library, ensuring that Montana has the State Library it needs.

Sincerely,

Bruce Newell (for the Montana State Library Commission)

Copies:

Budget Director Tom Livers  
Policy Advisor for Education McCall Flynn