

JERVIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK STATE BUDGET DIVISION STAFF UTICA HEARING AT SUNY IT NOVEMBER 27, 2007

Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening regarding the 2008 New York State budget.

My name is Lisa Matte and I am the Director of Jervis Public Library in Rome, a member of the Mid-York Library System.

Libraries foster “trickle up” economic development. We provide greatly utilized resources to assist in the creation of resumes, cover letters, and business plans as well as those that assist people in preparing to be interviewed and to interview others to fill positions in local businesses. We provide computers on which patrons seek jobs, fill out online applications, and create and revise resumes, cover letters, business plans, and marketing materials. In addition we provide wireless access to all patrons with laptops.

Rensselaer County resident Tim Gicewicz reported to me that as upstate New York representative for Eli Lilly, he stops at libraries to do everything from preparing reports and scheduling client appointments to checking the weather forecast and updating his wife on when he might return home. In upstate NY, he finds his cell service is not consistent, but wireless access at libraries is.

Public libraries across New York State have similar stories of what they are able to provide to constituents because of their membership in their public library systems. According to the King Study¹, without systems, it would cost each library at least three times its budget to supply the same services, programs, and materials on its own. In 2006, Jervis

¹ Griffiths, Jose-Marie and Donald W. King of King Research, Inc. “Library Systems in New York State: A Study Prepared for The University of the State of New York, State Education Department, Division of Library Development.”

Library's \$1.4 million budget provided \$10.2 million in materials, services, and expert training and research. Libraries continue to provide such remarkable return on investment through exemplary collaboration and cooperative agreements with libraries and other agencies.

In addition to fostering economic development, libraries are setting examples of energy conservation in their communities. Jervis Library is completing a major renovation including full replacement of the HVAC system and replacement of exterior walls and storefront style windows. For this \$800,000 project, Jervis received \$92,000 in Library Construction Aid, without which the full project would not have been possible. This \$92,000 state investment created jobs for local people and local firms, all of whom are also taxpayers. In addition to its immediate economic impact, this project will reduce our energy consumption by an estimated 30% reducing our draw on the power grid. With this project's details nearing completion, building needs of over \$1 million remain.

As the world in which we live changes, libraries are experiencing revolutionary adaptation providing both traditional and technology-based services and products facilitated by the library systems to which they belong. Libraries are also blazing trails into greener construction and reduced energy consumption, supported by Library Construction Aid.

I respectfully urge you to make permanent both Supplemental Library System Aid and Library Construction Aid