

Supporting Montana's libraries
from the mountains to the prairies

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REGARDING
CONTROL BY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARDS OVER THEIR BUDGET AND
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, historically in Montana the budget requirements and funding of public libraries had been exempt from the vagaries of politics; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of such exemptions was to preserve the independence of public libraries, and to insulate library funding from potential political considerations that may color funding decisions of local governing bodies; and

WHEREAS, library boards recognize that their power to raise and expend funding is limited by the provisions of Montana Code Annotated § 15-10-420; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the 2001 Montana Legislature when it passed House Bill 124, known as the "Big Bill," was to preserve the then-existing exemption of public library budgets from approval and possible revision by a local governing body; and

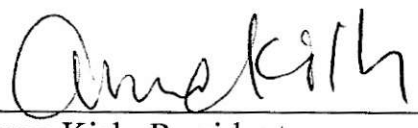
WHEREAS, despite the legislative intent reflected in House Bill 124, the 2001 Montana Legislature passed Senate Bill 138, which repealed the exemption for public library budgets referred to above, thereby making budgets submitted by library boards of trustees subject to approval and possible revision by the governing body.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MONTANA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION:**

Montana law should be restored to its original form and intent to ensure that a public library board of trustees has ultimate authority to determine the library's funding and budgeting needs, within the funding limits established in Montana Code Annotated § 15-10-420.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16 day of January, 2013.

APPROVED:



Anne Kish, President