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Sharon Hunter
Marathon County Public Library
President, Board of Trustees
231256 Shenandoah Ridge Road
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Dear Ms. Hunter,

On my behalf and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library in Three Lakes, I want to thank your board for hearing and reading my statement in public comment at your September 16, 2019 meeting. I also appreciate the board members honoring extra time in the public comment period in order to hear comments from all present. There is always a lot of information to cover in a meeting, so the extra time given to our concerns indicates a willingness to listen and receive feedback. Thank you.

I noticed that our letters submitted on record weren't included in the posted board communication distributed for this month's meeting. I am including a copy of my letter and hope it can be shared with the other members not able to attend at last month's meeting.

Our library's trustees support the suggestion of MCPL trustee Katie Rosenberg that a taskforce be formed to carefully look at this decision from all perspectives. We appreciate the MCPL trustees' efforts to do due diligence in personally investigating the impacts and being prepared to answer for the ripple effects of making a major change, especially when the state is already pursuing statewide long-term planning through PSLR.

While it is the duty of the trustees of any library to look at opportunities that would increase services and efficiencies for patrons and taxpayers in their jurisdiction, the decision of a system resource library to give up its status and move to another system is one that would have immense fallout, not just within the Wisconsin Valley Library Service system and the other 24 member libraries, but throughout all the neighboring library systems and across the state. Such an action would attract attention and raise questions directed at the MCPL board.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective on this decision as a director of a small WVLS library. Our board is going to follow the process closely and thanks you for your consideration.

Regards,

Erica Brewster
Director, Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library