September 2, 2020
Dear Marathon County Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Dominic Frandrup, and I am the director of the Antigo Public Library. APL has branch libraries in Elton and White Lake. Our library is part of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service, which is based in Wausau/Marathon County.

I have been following the work of the MCPL Library System Task Force since it began, as Marathon County leaving WVLS to join the South Central Library System will have a big economic impact not only on Marathon County, but on neighboring counties. I noticed at your next meeting that you will receive an update on the Task Force. On August 13, I shared my concerns with the MCPL Task Force and Board of Trustees. In that letter, I stated:

*Furthermore, judging from the publicly available documents provided by WVLS and SCLS detailing the services offered by each system, the move to SCLS looks to be a marked increase of approximately $66,192 for Marathon county residents to receive SCLS’s basic service level. With declining state, county, and city revenues I fail to see how this is a fiscally responsible, or community focused move. (*[*https://wvls.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SCLS-and-WVLS-Responses-to-Task-Force-FinancialQuestions-May-2020.pdf*](https://wvls.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SCLS-and-WVLS-Responses-to-Task-Force-FinancialQuestions-May-2020.pdf)*) and (*[*https://wvls.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Updated-CostComparison-SCLS-WVLS-June-2020.pdf*](https://wvls.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Updated-CostComparison-SCLS-WVLS-June-2020.pdf)*) The increased service levels being touted by SCLS in May would cost MCPL another $105,037. How would any of these increased costs for service be balanced? Staff reductions at MCPL seem to be the most obvious as SCLS should have staff on hand which would duplicate the services currently offered by MCPL staff. These additional expenditures may also lead to decreased services for patrons at MCPL locations. According to 2019 Annual Report data, there is an obvious service reduction for Marathon County library patrons with a move to SCLS resulting in fewer materials available per person. This is a per capita decrease for electronic items 5 ebooks per person, and an overall materials decrease of 6.8 items per person. Longer wait times and reduced selection of materials for patrons is not a service improvement. (*[*https://wvls.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Second-DLT-Spreadsheet.pdf*](https://wvls.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Second-DLT-Spreadsheet.pdf)*)*

*The taskforce decision will not only affect Marathon County residents, but will also affect over 146,000 people in the six other counties WVLS serves.*

My entire letter is attached, and similar letters of concern also sent to the MCPL Task Force and Board of Trustees can be found here: <https://wvls.org/mcpl-system-exploration/>

My previous letters to the task force which referenced in this letter are also available there.

Thank you for your time.

Dominic Frandrup MA-LIS - Director

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