

October 28, 2011



State Senator Velmanette Montgomery  
Room 944, Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 14227

**Re: Congratulations on your "A" rating by the New Yorkers for Better Libraries**

Dear State Senator Montgomery:

On behalf of the Metropolitan New York Library Council's (METRO) membership of over 250 public, academic, research, hospital and special libraries in New York City and Westchester County, I am pleased to congratulate you for your "A" rating in the **2011 Voter's Guide by the New Yorkers for Better Libraries**. This rating reflects your great support of library issues during the 2011 legislative session.

The New York Senate came through for the library community by passing five of the New York Library Association's 2011 Legislative Priorities, three of which were signed into law by the Governor. In addition, the Senate proposed a \$4 million restoration in Library Aid, of which \$3 million was included in the adopted 2011-12 State Budget. This can be attributed to legislators' increased appreciation for the important role libraries are playing during this tough economy to help the unemployed search and apply for jobs, improve literacy and reading skills among all age levels, and provide unfettered access information – all critical components of a healthy democracy.

The bills that were considered in compiling these ratings were:

- Restore Library Aid Cuts in 2011-2012 State Budget
- Public Library Construction Grants
- Public Library Systems Eligible for Local Government Efficiency Grants
- BOCES-Libraries Internet Partnerships
- Library Card Info Distributed to Students
- Expand Eligibility for EPE Funding to Include Libraries
- NYS Comprehensive Information System
- State Library House of Operation

The 2011 Voters Guide can be found at [www.newyorkersforbetterlibraries.org](http://www.newyorkersforbetterlibraries.org) The guide is part of a program of legislative accountability.

Our libraries are confronted daily with the impossible task of providing more with less; providing vital information to more job seekers, more business people, more students, more immigrants, more New Yorkers. Library aid makes up less than 1/10 of 1% of the state budget while serving 75% of New York households. That is why we sincerely appreciate your support during the last session and look forward to your continued support of libraries in the future. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Kucsma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" being more prominent than the last name "Kucsma".

Jason Kucsma

Executive Director