

Dear Chairperson Campion and Education Committee members,

Thank you for taking the time to consider S.26, [Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont](#). I hope it will move forward this year, as it is a key piece of legislation for all types of libraries in our state.

I'm writing in my professional capacity as Director of the Pierson Library in Shelburne, and also as President of the Vermont Library Association, to support State Librarian Broughton's request to add the two Assistant State Librarians to this Working Group as valued members. This makes perfect sense and will allow the group to thrive, for the reasons he stated below.

I would also strongly recommend adding one board member from the Green Mountain Library Consortium, www.gmlc.org, Vermont's largest non-profit library consortium. Here's a brief description of GMLC and their important work:

"In late 2007, a group of approximately 15 libraries joined together to provide downloadable audio book service to the State of Vermont. The Green Mountain Library Consortium was officially born in 2008 from these initial meetings, and now has over 155 members from public, school, academic and special libraries, with a service population of over 400,000.

Our mission is to provide Vermont's libraries with access to goods and services otherwise unattainable, through the power of partnerships and collective purchasing. This is summed up in the consortium's tagline: *Vermont Libraries, Working Together.*"

In addition to being the group that brought online, downloadable materials to Vermont, GMLC is responsible for creating the largest shared catalog in the state and a statewide courier system that now has close to 100 participants. All of these efforts have resulted in better services and significant cost saving efficiencies in our libraries. The State Library has provided assistance with these projects financially, and in the case of the courier has taken over responsibility for the service – so these two groups have a longstanding partnership in moving libraries forward.

Thank you for considering this request, about which I'd be happy to talk further.

Very best,
Kevin

Kevin Unrath
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President, Vermont Library Association