

April 25, 2019

Honorable Senators:

I write on behalf of the Oregon Library Association (OLA) to express our wholehearted support of **Jennifer Patterson's** nomination to be Oregon's next **State Librarian**.

Ms. Patterson has an impressive and wide-ranging resume. She has experience working in communities of various sizes and situations. As Assistant Director of Public Services for Seattle Public Library, she oversaw a department of 300+ staff and \$35 million budget. As the director of branch operations at the Pierce County Library System (Tacoma, WA), she worked with urban, suburban, and rural communities to ensure that patrons of all types got strong library service. This experience will serve her well as she works with the diverse public libraries across Oregon.

We were particularly pleased to see that Ms. Patterson has experience beyond just public libraries. Most recently, she has worked with universities and university libraries at the University of Washington Bothel and Edmonds Community College (Lynnwood, WA). Together with her previous experience working in law libraries, Ms. Patterson is well-positioned to be able to address the needs of the many types of libraries served by the State Library.

During the hiring process, we were able to see further the depth of Mrs. Patterson's accomplishments. She has managed projects large and small, including grants, strategic planning, organizational changes, and systemic staff training. Her experience is further bolstered by having master degrees in both Library & Information Science and Public Administration, two fields that dovetail perfectly for leading the State Library.

Praise is also due to the Governor's Office for leading an excellent search process. All stakeholders - including the State Library Board, State Library staff, OLA, and others - were kept involved in the process throughout. These stakeholder groups had an opportunity to review semi-finalists, to meet and question the three finalists, and to have their voices heard in the ultimate recommendation for a nominee.

We at the Oregon Library Association feel that Jennifer Patterson is the right person to lead the State Library of Oregon to the next step of its evolution. I am happy to speak with you further about her nomination. I can be reached at olapastpresident@olaweb.org or 541-447-7978 x314.

Sincerely,



Buzzy Nielsen
OLA Immediate Past President