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Dear PLSR Steering Committee Members:

On behalf of the Bridges Library System Board, I would like to acknowledge your recent letter to our library system director regarding recommendations for library systems contracts. Please be assured that we are following the PLSR process closely and will continue to make decisions about our contracts based on what we believe is in the best interest of our organization and our libraries. We appreciate the timeline information you provided and are looking forward to more opportunities for existing library systems to provide feedback in your process.

Since we recently undertook a major organizational redesign, we are familiar with both the concept of rethinking your organization and the practical work of doing so. When Jefferson County merged with Waukesha County and our new library system was created, it was paramount to all of our stakeholders that the changes result in tangible improvements. We worked hard to ensure that efficiencies were realized and that effectiveness was not sacrificed in the process of growing. We urge you to continue the PLSR process with a similar mindset.

For more than forty years, Wisconsin libraries have benefited from library system services. While many changes have taken place in that time, some facets of library systems transcend time. Examining what needs change and what works well is important so we don't make the mistake of "throwing the baby out with the bathwater." There is much at stake for our libraries, and we would like to express our expectation that any plan that comes forward is one that doesn't compromise the services and programs currently being delivered to our libraries.

Sincerely,

Richard Nawrocki, President
Board of Trustees