

43RD DISTRICT

JAY COSTA

- SENATE BOX 203043
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3043
PHONE: (717) 787-7683
FAX: (717) 783-5210
 - 1501 ARDMORE BLVD., SUITE 403
PITTSBURGH, PA 15221
PHONE: (412) 241-6690
FAX: (412) 880-0340
 - 2306 BROWNSVILLE ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15210
PHONE: (412) 488-6111
FAX: (412) 488-6102
 - 314 EAST EIGHTH AVENUE
HOMESTEAD, PA 15120-1592
PHONE: (412) 565-7536
FAX: (412) 565-7535
- costa@pasenate.com



Senate of Pennsylvania

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November 17, 2009

Dear Members of Council,

I am writing to ask for your support of Council President Shields' proposal to provide stopgap funding to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP), which I understand is scheduled for a vote tomorrow, Wednesday, November 18, 2009. The Shields' proposal is a key component of the overall solutions, including the long-term funding that I and my colleagues are seeking in Harrisburg.

In order to preserve our community libraries, we are faced with two challenges. The most immediate challenge is a short-term funding solution in order to provide a 14 month deferment of the Library Board's branch closure decision. In addition, during this period, we must work together to develop a plan to resolve the long-term issues of library funding and accountability. However, in order to meet this long-term goal, we must resolve the short-term funding problem. The Shields' proposal, in concert with our Harrisburg efforts, is a good and necessary measure for the immediate future of our libraries. Your approval of this legislation tomorrow will help ensure that these libraries stay open and continue to be a viable and vibrant part of our City landscape.

I stand ready to work with all of you to resolve this very important issue. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter in greater detail. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Costa".

Senator Jay Costa
43rd District