

From John K. Chidester, Director, Public Library of Mount Vernon & Knox County:

On Friday, June 19, Gov. Ted Strickland announced a plan to cut \$227.3 million from Ohio public library funding over the next two fiscal years. This will cut our previously expected revenues by nearly 32%. Added to the 20% drop in state funding we were already dealing with, this is a total decrease of more than 50% in library funding. We have already reduced staff at our main library and branches by 25% and slashed expenditures in all other categories, including books, periodicals, CDs and DVDs. This new development will require vastly greater cuts than we've already made, and this comes after a seven-year period in which Ohio library funding was repeatedly frozen and cut. This will mean a catastrophic drop in library resources, services, staff and hours of operation. All library patrons, including those who rely on us for Internet access to find jobs or help run their businesses, will be severely affected. If you are as deeply concerned about this as we are, please make your thoughts known to Gov. Strickland and our legislators, State Senator Bill Harris and State Representative Margaret Ann Ruhl. Here is their contact information:

Mail:

Governor's Office
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Rep. Margaret Ann Ruhl
77 S. High St
11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Phone: (614) 466-3555
Fax: (614) 466-9354

Phone: (614) 466-1431
Fax: (614) 719-6990
Email: district90@ohr.state.oh.us

Online:

<http://governor.ohio.gov>

E-mail (his press secretary; you cannot e-mail the governor directly):
amanda.wurst@governor.ohio.gov

Sen. Bill Harris
Statehouse
Room #201, Second Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Telephone: (614) 466-8086
Email: SD19@senate.state.oh.us

Also, please visit <http://saveohiolibraries.com> for more information. The governor's budget will be finalized by June 30. Please act now. There is not a second to lose.