March 21, 2015

The Honorable Sue Serino
3 Neptune Road Suite A19B
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dear Senator Serino:

The Board of Trustees of the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) requests your sponsorship of the Starr
Library of Rhinebeck's Special District legislation. This legislation would authorize the voters of the
town of Rhinebeck to decide if they wish to create the Starr Public Library District, the library funding
and governance model promoted by the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, the NYS Division of
Library Development, and the Mid-Hudson Library System.

In 2014, the Senate and the Assembly passed the Starr Library of Rhinebeck's Special District legislation.
However, in November, Governor Cuomo vetoed the legislation. This veto was unprecedented; in fact,
Governor Cuomo had previously signed two identical bills into existence for MHLS member libraries: the
Grinnell Public Library District in Wappingers Falls and the Reed Memorial Library District in Carmel.

We believe local taxpayer oversight of a public library is the most democratic and fair way to ensure that
library services are equitably provided in a community. A direct relationship between a library and its
community is healthiest when taxpayers directly vote on library funding and elect the governing board of
the library.

Thank you for considering the request of the MHLS Board of Trustees for your sponsorship of the Starr
Library of Rhinebeck's Special District legislation. Please let us know if we may provide you with any
additional information regarding special district libraries.

Special District Public Libraries in MHLS:

- D.R. Evarts (Athens)
- Reed Memorial Library (Carmel)
- Heermance MemorialLibrary (Coxsackie)
- East Fishkill Community Library
- Town of Esopus Library
- Blodgett Memorial Library (Fishkill)
- Hurley Library
- Hyde Park Free Library
- Kingston Library
- Plattekill Public Library

- Poughkeepsie Public Library District
- Rosendale Library
- Saugerties Public Library
- Staatsburg Library
- Stone Ridge Library
- Town of Ulster Public Library
- Grinnell Public Library District (Wappingers Falls)
- West Hurley Public Library
- Woodstock Public Library District

Sincerely,

Roland Patterson, Board President