

Lima Public Library

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To: New York State Complete Count Commission
Date: April 25, 2019

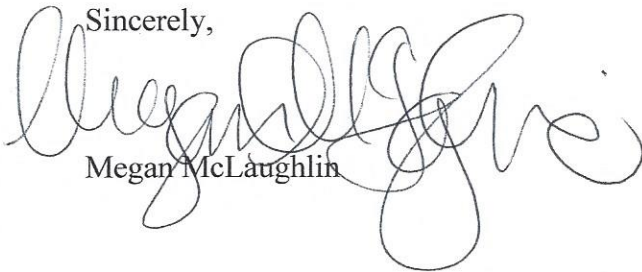
My name is Megan McLaughlin. I am the director of Lima Public Library in Livingston County. We are a part of the Pioneer Library System which supports the libraries in Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming and Livingston Counties.

Libraries are trusted institutions in their communities. We recognize that, because of this, many will be relying on their local library. They will do so, both for access and information when it comes time for them to complete the 2020 census digitally. Libraries provide internet access to nearly 20% of New Yorkers who lack broadband access at home.

In New York State, 100% of the census-defined hard to count populations live within 1 mile of a public library. These groups include, but are not limited to, non-English speakers and member of ethnic or minority groups, people with mental or physical disabilities, and low-income persons. In addition, libraries are committed to digital security and online privacy. Library staff can help individuals understand how the online census works, what risks are inherent in the process, and how the library as a point-of-access has helped to mitigate those risks. In order to provide the safest and most secure online experience, many libraries will require additional funding to put best practices into place.

Libraries are underfunded at the state level as we are still not receiving State Aid at the statutory level. Although libraries are excited to help lead efforts to ensure a complete count, additional funding would expand their ability to do even more. I urge you to support a financial investment in libraries to support the work that they will be carrying out to ensure that all New Yorkers are counted. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Megan McLaughlin