Mount Morris Library
121 Main Street
Mount Morris, NY 14510

To: New York State Complete Count Commission

April 25, 2019

My name is Sharon Stanley and I am the director of the Mount Morris 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 and we recognize that because of this many will be relying on their local library for both 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,

Sharon Stanley