

**HARRIET M. HAGEMAN**

AT-LARGE, WYOMING

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

CHAIR, INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 30, 2023

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The Honorable Crosby Kemper  
Office of the Director  
Institute of Museum and Library Services  
955 L'Enfant Plaza SW #4000  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Director Kemper,

As the lone Representative for the state of Wyoming, I am writing to express my support for the nomination of the Goshen County Library for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

Established in 1921, the Goshen County Library has, in its over 100 years of existence, frequently gone above and beyond the responsibilities associated with your everyday library to welcome individuals from across the community and provide them with the tools they need to succeed. The library currently receives an average of 42,000 visitors annually and furnishes countless amenities for everyone whether they are visiting for school, work, or just to discover a new book. Easy access to technology, free wireless internet, printing services, a children's room, and quiet spaces for telehealth appointments and remote work are just a few of the services provided. Furthermore, children who visit can use their knowledge and creativity to develop new skills through their MakerSpace imagination station in addition to technology that is specifically designed for coding and digital animation. This is all on top of a substantial collection of books and reading material with selections that meet the needs and interests of all their visitors.

The Goshen County Library has not only been instrumental in providing essential resources for learning and development but has also consistently expressed a desire and willingness to assist all members of the community in accessing these materials regardless of the challenges they may face. The library provides technology assistance services for seniors which can range from laptop, phone, and tablet set-up to basic word processing guidance. Children who have an easier time listening to novels can access the library's Wonderbooks which contain ready-to-play audiobooks inside. Lastly, an expansive bilingual book selection is available to accommodate any visitors who are non-English speakers. The level of investment and care for their visitors is truly exceptional and reinforces their goal to create an environment that champions overall growth and success.

This goal of helping others succeed has remained steadfast for over 100 years and has endured even in the toughest of circumstances. While the facility was closed amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the library went on to implement a StoryWalk® program so that children and families could continue accessing books while also having the opportunity to get outside and exercise. The library now operates five StoryWalk® programs across the cities of Torrington, Lingle, Fort Laramie, and Yoder. In times of great uncertainty, the Goshen County Library has not only endured but has prevailed and become a stronger force in the community.

Fostering a lifelong passion for learning, providing easy access to educational information and resources, enriching the lives of community members, and rising above challenges are the qualifications that embody a recipient of this medal. It is clear that the Goshen County Library has excelled in each of these categories and continues to remain a beacon of knowledge, integrity, and service that are fundamental to the function of a successful community. With that, I encourage you to give your full consideration to the Goshen County Library's application for this prestigious medal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Harriet M. Hageman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Harriet" being more prominent and the last name "Hageman" following in a similar style.

Harriet M. Hageman  
Member of Congress