

# ALA American Library Association

June 30, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

Re: H.R. 2, Moving Forward Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

The American Library Association (ALA) welcomes the provisions of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, that will strengthen our nation's library infrastructure. America's 117,000 libraries are visited more than 1.3 billion times each year and employ nearly 370,000 workers. However, the average public library building is more than 40 years old and libraries face many facilities challenges. Our nation's libraries must be safe, healthy, modern, accessible, and green.

We appreciate that H.R. 2 includes provisions that would:

- **Connect Americans to affordable internet access** by expanding hotspot and device lending by libraries and by bolstering digital inclusion initiatives.
- **Modernize school library facilities** by providing needed funding to improve school facilities, including school library spaces.
- **Support green library facilities** by increasing the energy efficiency of public buildings and tax-exempt entities such as libraries.
- **Extend and enhance financing mechanisms for library facilities** such as the New Markets Tax Credit.

We encourage the House to advance these provisions as a key step toward modernizing America's library facilities and closing the digital divide. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathi Kromer  
Associate Executive Director, Public Policy and Advocacy  
American Library Association

The American Library Association (“ALA”) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all.