



August 1, 2019

Mr. John Sargent, Chief Executive Officer
Macmillan Publishers
120 Broadway Street
New York, NY 10271

Dear Mr. Sargent,

On behalf of the 9,000 members of the Public Library Association (PLA), our nation's largest association for public library professionals, we are writing to object to and ask Macmillan Publishers to reconsider its plan to embargo new eBook titles for U.S. public libraries starting November 1. Under this new model, we understand a public library may purchase only a single copy of each new title in eBook format upon release, after which Macmillan will impose an eight-week embargo on additional eBook sales of that title. To public libraries and the millions of people who rely on them every day, Macmillan's new policy is patently unacceptable.

The central mission of libraries is to ensure equitable access to information for all people, regardless of format. Macmillan's new eBook lending policy will limit access to new titles by the readers who depend most on libraries. In a recent interview, you likened this embargo to delaying release of paperback titles to maximize hardcover sales, but in that case public libraries are able to purchase and lend the books at the same time our readers are seeking them. Access to eBooks through public libraries should not be denied or delayed.

PLA and its parent organization the American Library Association, will explore all possible avenues to ensure that libraries can do our jobs of providing access to information for all, without arbitrary limitations that undermine libraries' ability to serve our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to engaging in a dialogue with you.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Public Library Association

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CC:

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