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August 14, 2023

Governor Mark Gordon  
200 W 24th St Room 124  
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Governor Gordon,

We the undersigned Wyoming elected officials write to you with excitement at the opportunity for Wyoming to blaze its own trail. You mentioned in your speech closing out the 67th Legislative Session in March that you deeply desire Wyoming solutions for Wyoming problems. We are here to present you with one.

It has been recently revealed that the American Library Association, of which the Wyoming Library System is affiliated, has taken a sharp leftward turn. Now led by a self-avowed Marxist,<sup>1</sup> the American Library Association encourages affiliated libraries to expose minors to sexually explicit materials through its “Rainbow Book List.”<sup>2</sup>

Through this list, the American Library Association seeks to expose preschool children to books that “smash gender norms,” peddling the lie that male and female do not exist as biological categories. The list suggests that middle school children read books containing graphic depictions of sexual acts, including descriptions of an *eight year old child* engaging in masturbation and messages that encourage minors to access pornography and engage in “sexting” - **a crime in our state.**<sup>3</sup> We hear about these books on Fox News and CNN, but that doesn’t mean they aren’t a “Wyoming problem.” These books and more are all available in multiple Wyoming public libraries.<sup>4</sup>

Our public libraries should not be in the business of exposing children to these damaging themes. According to the CDC, children are at increased risk for future sexual violence (to include human trafficking) when exposed to sexually explicit media, develop preferences for sexual risk-taking, and are exposed to sex at an early age.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jeff Johnston, *American Library Association Chooses Marxist Lesbian as President-Elect*, Daily Citizen (April 22, 2022) <https://dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com/american-library-association-chooses-marxist-lesbian-as-president-elect/>

<sup>2</sup> Amanda Melili, *2023 Rainbow Book List*, American Library Association (January 30, 2023) <https://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/>.

<sup>3</sup> W.S. 6-4-303

<sup>4</sup> Clair McFarland, *Campbell County Ousts Director After Sex Book Controversy* (July 29, 2023), Cowboy State Daily; Clair McFarland, *Controversial Books ‘Gender Queer’ and ‘Trans Bodies’ Remain in Casper High School Library— Here’s What’s In Them* (Sept. 29, 2022), Cowboy State Daily.

<sup>5</sup> *Risk and Protective Factors*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html>.

Wyoming does not need to take orders, entertain recommendations, or accept suggestions from the American Library Association. Our local communities can best curate the books on our library shelves the Wyoming way.

We agree with columnists Rod Miller and Rodger McDaniel- you face a fork in the road, and now is the time to act, to mark a defining moment in your administration.<sup>6</sup> We ask that you cut all Wyoming ties with the Chicago-based American Library Association and allow our local communities to handle our own libraries without outside interference from this highly partisan institution.

Respectfully,

Representative John Bear, HD 31  
Chairman, WYFC



Representative Bill Allemand, HD 58



Representative Chris Knapp, HD 53



Representative Sarah Penn, HD 33



Representative Allen Slagle, HD 02



Representative Tomi Strock, HD 06



Representative John Winter, HD 28



Secretary of State Chuck Gray



Representative Jeremy Haroldson, HD 04  
Vice Chairman, WYFC



Representative Scott Heiner, HD 18



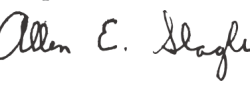
Representative Pepper Ottman, HD 34



Representative Rachel Rodriguez-Williams, HD 50



Representative Scott Smith, HD 05



Representative Jeanette Ward, HD 57



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<sup>6</sup> Rod Miller, *Gordon Has A Chance To Be Great. Will He Take It?*, Cowboy State Daily (July 27, 2023) <https://cowboystatedaily.com/2023/07/27/rod-miller-gordon-has-a-chance-to-be-great-will-he-take-it/>; Roger McDaniel, *Gordon faces a fork in the road; will he bow to the Freedom Caucus?*, Wyoming Tribune Eagle (August 5, 2023) [https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/guest\\_column/mcdaniel-gordon-faces-a-fork-in-the-road-will-he-bow-to-freedom-caucus/article\\_342afd84-3257-11ee-b39a-d71b8579c0b2.html](https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/guest_column/mcdaniel-gordon-faces-a-fork-in-the-road-will-he-bow-to-freedom-caucus/article_342afd84-3257-11ee-b39a-d71b8579c0b2.html).

