

To Whom It May Concern:

Pequot Library in Southport, CT is a proud part of the BorrowIT service, and it is an invaluable component of our community--and the state at large.

Southport is a village within the town of Fairfield, so our library cards say "Fairfield Public Library," but Southport also borders the town of Westport. Many of our patrons use Westport Library cards to check out materials at our library; in fact, a good portion of those patrons rarely use Westport Library. We at Pequot are their preferred, primary library; they only have a Westport Library card because Westport is considered their hometown. Geographically, however, Pequot Library is much closer.

Furthermore, we serve many patrons outside of the immediate Fairfield/Westport communities through the BorrowIT program. Pequot is a small library, but our collection is eclectic and offers rare information on specialized topics. BorrowIT allows patrons from across the state to check out materials they otherwise could not access. It also helps bolster the offerings of other small, local libraries, allowing libraries to purchase a wider variety of titles without worrying about acquiring too many duplicate copies.

BorrowIT is an important program that serves the unique towns of Connecticut and their residents. It promotes the free circulation of information across town borders, no small feat in a state that sees an unfortunate divide in wealth and digital access. To cut this program would be to deny free access to information to the state's residents, an appalling action when our democracy relies on an informed public.

Best,

Christine