

March 24, 2026

Thank you, Sen. Kunes, Rep. Gottfried and the co-authors of SF3685/HF3698

My name is Jenni Hill and I am the owner of Avant Garden, an independent bookstore and coffee shop in downtown Anoka. My business works closely with our local libraries, and we experience firsthand the way both libraries and bookstores support authors and readers.

Libraries play a primary role in developing a foundation in a person's reading life. A broad range of authors, topics and genres are revealed to those who use their public library. In return, utilizing library access is a building block to lifelong reading patterns. People who have built strong reading habits are more likely to patronize my bookstore.

Our bookstore had the opportunity to participate in the Anoka County Library's summer reading challenge in 2025. This partnership brought over 1000 readers into our business. In 2026 we helped get the word out about our library's winter reading challenge by placing stickers on our coffee cups. We believe this exposure contributed to a large increase in participants.

I have the privilege of observing firsthand how readers move between libraries and bookstores and believe libraries need access to fair and transparent terms when they license digital materials. A better-informed reading public is established when libraries can lend and share e-books and audiobooks effectively.

I appreciate efforts that will help continue access to reading materials through our library. This support will secure essential access for our reading community.

Sincerely,

*Jenni Hill*

Owner, Avant Garden Bookstore