

JAMES P. MCGOVERN
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December 4, 2024
Maureen Amyot, Director
MA Board of Library Commissioners
90 Canal St., Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Director Amyot,

I am writing to express my support for the Jones Library of Amherst's request for an extension.

Jones Library's historically significant architecture and collections are essential to the Central Amherst National Historic District and Downtown Amherst Cultural District, contributing to tourism in Western Massachusetts. Careful attention to preserve the historic components of the original 1928 building is one of the key reasons for the high cost of the project, as the architects and building committee seek to maintain every element possible while meeting accessibility requirements and furthering the purpose of the library.

My office has actively supported the Jones Library Building Project, including securing \$1.1M in Community Project Funding in the FY23 budget designated for the sustainability measures included in the rehabilitation. When complete, the Jones Library will serve as a shining example of sustainable historic preservation.

In addition, I am pleased to note that the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the Jones Library a \$1M challenge grant, the largest of their nationally competitive FY23 grant round. Both federal grants require Sec 106 historic preservation review, also conducted by MA Historic Commission experts. It is our fervent hope that these reviews be completed in a timely manner so this well vetted project can proceed to completion.

It is my hope that you will extend full and fair consideration to the Jones Library's request for an extension to allow these necessary federal reviews to proceed. Thank you for your consideration of my letter. Please direct your response to my Regional Manager, Koby Gardner-Levine, at Koby.Gardner-Levine@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James P. McGovern".

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress