

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finance Committee

October 15, 2013

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL E-BOOK LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, Public libraries in Ohio are open 1.8 million hours a year to all Ohioans; and

WHEREAS, 2.1 million children and 6.7 million adults are cardholders at public libraries in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Technology has enabled public libraries to provide e-books, which are rapidly growing in popularity with public library patrons; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, 107,284 e-books were circulated at the Cleveland Public Library, an increase of 57.6% from 2011, and e-book usage by CPL patrons has continued to grow at a similar pace in 2013; and

WHEREAS, The increasing demand for public libraries to offer e-books is difficult to meet because some major publishers refuse to sell or license e-books to public libraries; and

WHEREAS, Public library patrons are increasingly requesting e-books, only to be informed that major publishers will not sell or lease requested titles to public libraries; and

WHEREAS, By denying public libraries access to e-books, and by making e-books cost prohibitive, publishers have limited access to information to only those who can afford to purchase it; and

WHEREAS, This issue should be fully examined and considered so that all children and adults have access to informational materials to enable all citizens to compete in the digitalized global economy; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees, respectfully request that Ohio members of the Congress of the United States seek a legislative solution to ensure public access to e-book materials through public libraries.