

May 13, 2022

Robert Benes, Senior Compliance Officer
Midwest Real Estate Data
2433 Warrenville Rd., #600
Lisle, IL. 60532

Dear Mr. Benes,

I write on behalf of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), a regional library system that provides services to libraries in the northern and west-central areas of the state of Illinois. We serve approximately 1300 private, public, school, and university library members. We ask that you consider adding a category that includes the public library service of properties on the MLS listing sheets. We believe this information about public library service is of benefit to the potential homeowners who consider public library service to be of significant value to their real estate decision making.

Proximity to libraries results in increased value for homeowners. A study conducted by the Fels Institute of Government investigating the added value public library service brings to homes and neighborhoods noted that homes within a quarter mile of a public library are worth, on average, \$9630 more than homes more than a quarter mile from a library. That's an increase in home values that holds significant economic impacts to homeowners.

Conversely, the state of Illinois has one million residents who are without public library service. Many homeowners buy homes in unserved areas unaware that they will not receive public library service, which in turn has a significant loss of quality of life for those who depend on libraries. A category featuring public library service allows these homeowners to make an informed decision about the property they are considering.

Libraries serve as a significant return on investment for homeowners, and we believe that adding a category on the MLS listing sheets featuring library service will be of significant informational value to all so they can make the best decisions for their families.

RAILS is more than willing to work with MRED on appropriate language for this important category. I'd certainly be happy to speak with you more regarding anything relevant to this request. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Brennan
Executive Director
Reaching Across Illinois Library Systems (RAILS)