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August 17, 2022

Patmos Library Board  
Board of Trustees  
2445 Riley Street  
Hudsonville, MI 49426  
Attn: Mr. Larry Walton, President

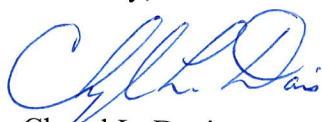
Re: Support for the Patmos Library Board

Dear Mr. Walton and the Members of the Patmos Library Board,

The Authors Guild supports the Patmos Library Board and its refusal to remove LGBTQ+ and other books deemed objectionable by a group called “the Jamestown Conservatives.” We understand how difficult it is to stand up to these censorship efforts, especially when they have put the library’s financial wellbeing in jeopardy. We support you and urge you to stay strong in your mission to ensure that your local library users have access to a diversity of materials that reflect the life experiences of all in your community. It is both vital for readers of all ages to see themselves represented in the books on a library’s shelves and to be exposed to the stories of others. Such awareness helps us to understand the commonalities that help make us into a society.

As the nation’s oldest and largest professional organization of writers, the Authors Guild has long worked to protect writers from censorship of all kinds. That is why we made a public statement and spoke out against the campaign that not only targeted certain books in the Patmos library but spread misinformation and falsely accused the library of “grooming” and “indoctrinating” children, resulting in the nonrenewal of the library’s funding. We understand that this issue will be on the ballot again in November, and we are reaching out to our Michigan-based members to ask them to support the Patmos library (as well as other local libraries that may be suffering similar attacks), and we welcome your suggestions on how best our Michigan members can help in the effort. We also welcome any recommendations you might have of additional ways the Guild can support the Patmos library in its time of need.

Sincerely,



Cheryl L. Davis  
General Counsel