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ALA American Library Association

February 3, 2005

Minnesota Coalition on Government Information
C/o Legislative Reference Library
645 State Office Building
100 Constitution Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Members of the Minnesota Coalition:

It is my honor to inform you that the Coalition has been selected as the recipient of the inaugural Eileen Cooke State and Local Madison Award.

The Eileen Cooke State and Local Madison Award, named for your fellow Minnesotan, Eileen Cooke, and for President James Madison, is being presented for the first time in 2005 and will be presented annually on the anniversary of Madison's birth. The award honors those at the state or local levels who have championed, protected, and promoted public access to government information and the public's right to know.

Protecting and enhancing open government at the state and grassroots level needs strong champions. The Coalition has been persistent in promoting open access and the role of the state in that process. It is a tribute to the Coalition that you have sustained your work for fifteen years with a remarkable diversity of partners.

We hope that you will be able to join us for the awards ceremony at the Freedom Forum in Arlington, Virginia, on March 16, James Madison's birth date, at the Freedom Forum's World Center in Arlington, Virginia. The award will be presented at the luncheon. ALA staff will contact you soon with specific details about the Freedom of Information Day ceremony.

Sincerely,



Carol Brey-Casiano
President
American Library Association