

From: [Miriam Dunbar](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: OWL Funding
Date: Friday, March 27, 2015 6:58:59 PM

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I have heard that OWL funding maybe cut out of the operating budget. I understand that cuts have to be made with the declining revenues, but a big reduction for OWL seems unwise. Our library received \$3300 from OWL this year to help pay for high speed internet. Many of our patrons do not have internet access at home and therefor depend on the library for this service. Since IRS forms, most job applications, and many other government services are only available via internet, this service is critical. The OWL program has also assisted us in receiving \$22867 from the E-Rate program for this year. Since the cost of high speed internet is about \$2000 per month, the E-Rate program allows us to purchase it. Please restore as much funding as possible to the OWL program so that libraries across Alaska can continue to provide high speed internet to their patrons. Thank you for your time.

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