From: <u>Sigrid Brudie</u>

To: <u>Senate Finance Committee</u>

Subject: OWL funding

Date: Sunday, March 06, 2016 11:55:02 AM

Senators,

Please restore OWL Internet funding to the 2017 state operating budget, as put forth in the Governor's budget. I regularly travel to many of Alaska's remote communities, where Internet connections can be frustratingly spotty, and the OWL service in public libraries is really a lifeline for students and other community members needing to connect to the outside world. We take the Internet for granted in larger cities such as Anchorage and Juneau, but in many of the smaller communities Internet connections are nearly impossible without OWL broadband support.

Thank you.

Sigrid Brudie, Anchorage