

From: [Julie Niederhauser](#)  
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
Subject: Support for Online With Libraries (OWL) and Public Broadcasting  
Date: Sunday, March 06, 2016 12:04:27 PM

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Hello,

**I am writing to encourage the Senate Finance Committee to fund the OWL (Online With Libraries)**, which was included in Governor's budget, and is now being cut entirely by finance education subcommittee. The governor's funding of \$761,800 should be restored. OWL internet funding leverages federal dollars in E-rate subsidy so this is a good investment. For every \$1 spent by the state on internet services, the federal match is \$4. Additionally OWL provides rural Alaskans of all ages the opportunity to engage with the rest of world using a safe and secure videoconferencing network. This videoconferencing network has been used for economic, health, legal and educational and entertainment purposes.

I am also writing to encourage the Senate Finance Committee **to support the governor's budget cut recommendations which proposed cutting the state's 2016 contribution to public broadcasting by \$800,000 and leaving \$3.5 million**. Public Broadcasting provides Alaskans statewide with a non-commercial platform in which ideas and information may be shared.

Thank you,

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