

**From:** [Jason Russell](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Alaska State Library Budget -- Please only reduce funding by 4% not 19%  
**Date:** Friday, March 04, 2016 2:14:39 PM

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To whom it may concern,

Living and working in Barrow Alaska at the Tuzzy Consortium Library, I know intimately how much my patrons in Barrow, Atkasuk, and elsewhere, benefit from the support and programming that is directly supported via the Alaska State Library. The Alaska State Library plays a key role in leading Alaska's Libraries into the future, and helping to ensure that the current, and future needs of Alaska's citizens are met, while helping to preserve our past through preservation efforts. This unfair reduction will greatly hinder the Alaska State Library, and in turn all Alaskan libraries to fulfill their mandates to support Alaskans.

Coupled with this, the Online With Libraries (OWL) program was not supported at all. This program has played a critical part in building broadband infrastructure throughout Alaska, but most especially in rural Alaska. Not funding this program will hurt rural Alaska the most as many communities lack, or will lack should this program be stopped, adequate broadband coverage. Our library increasingly has utilized videoconferencing to meet the educational needs of residents in communities across the North Slope, and OWL is tied intimately with our ability to provide these services.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Sincerely,

Jason Russell

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Tuzzy Consortium Library

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