

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: OWL Funding
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:04:47 PM

Kristen Pratt

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From: Nancy Bertels [mailto:Nancy.Bertels@matsugov.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:52 PM
To: Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>
Subject: OWL Funding

Dear Senators:

Please consider adding OWL funding back into the Senate Finance Committee's Budget. Since its inception OWL has been vital for 43 rural libraries in bringing broadband internet into their communities. This program brings with it a 4-1 match of federal e-rate dollars and guarantees that folks across that state without the resources will be able to participate in the 21st century at their local public libraries. It enables them to be able to apply for jobs, file their taxes and secure skills that might not be available in their communities. except through their public library

In these difficult budget times, the videoconferencing capabilities of OWL has been able to connect residents of rural communities with college classes, communication with their local and state legislators and the ability to attend statewide meetings without incurring the high costs of travel from rural Alaska. Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference to many people statewide.

Nancy Bertels
Sutton Public Library