

**From:** [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: OWL Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:05:10 PM

---

*Kristen Pratt*

Legislative Aide  
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516  
(907) 694-8944

---

**From:** Lisa Booch [mailto:boochlisa@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:22 AM  
**To:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** OWL Funding

Senator MacKinnon,

I am a 26 year veteran of the Kodiak Public Library.

I had a chance to speak to the Governor before he was our Governor. In that conversation I expressed to him the evolving role of libraries as a bridge to technology for a vast number of our residents. This is the same technology that local, federal and Alaska state agencies are using to cut their budgets by closing local offices and reducing personnel in favor of an internet interface with the residents of Alaska.

Who then takes care of your residents that do not have computers skills? Who provides equipment and broadband service to those that can not afford it at home? Who takes people in hand that do not understand the agencies instructions and forms?  
Your Public Libraries and their staff have become your local representative, your satellite office. We are your partners, we fill those gaps and those needs.

Just as a carpenter needs his tools to frame a house, your Public Libraries need broadband internet to do their job. We are a tool in your belt as essential as the hammer in the carpenters tool belt. The governor understands this, and that is why he left OWL in the budget.

Please restore OWL funding into the budget so that we can continue to serve you and also receive those 4-1 matching federal e-rate dollars.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Booch  
Kodiak Alaska