

**From:** [Sen. Pete Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Doniece Gott](#)  
**Subject:** FW: OWL funding - please restore!  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 11:18:24 AM

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**From:** Colleen Coadic [mailto:colleencoadic@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:41 AM  
**To:** Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** OWL funding - please restore!

Dear Senators,  
I am writing asking that you please restore OWL funding.

As you may know, OWL, is an important program that funds broadband internet, used by 43 public libraries for their patrons and numerous agencies. It was included in the Governor's budget, but cut from the House Finance Committee's budget and the Senate Finance Committee. Please support this portion of the Governor's request and keep OWL available to those 43 public libraries.

I know you understand the importance of this program to many people statewide, particularly rural Alaskans, but did you know this program also brings in a 4-1 match of federal e-rate funding dollars? Left unfunded, those federal dollars are left on the table.

OWL funding is small

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but immense in it's range and scope. If cut, these libraries will not be able to absorb the high cost of broadband internet access. Libraries will be in the difficult position of having to raise funds to cover this cost, virtually impossible for all of these libraries.

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f libraries begin to charge for internet access, already underserved members of our communities, many of whom are using library resources, will not be able to afford this expense

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any folks across Alaska who have no means for this cost, thus rendering them unable to participate in the 21st century

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except through their public library  
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to apply for jobs, beef up skills, apply for government assistance, etc.  
, lost.

Please restore OWL funding. It'll make an immense difference to many people statewide

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Thank you for your time and help with this matter.

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*Colleen T. Coadic*

***LMT: NCBTMB, AMTA, Usui R-tM***

***AK AMTA Board of Directors, Secretary***

***Recording Artist, Professional Musician***

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