

From: [Karen K](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: State Funding for OWL Grant
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:38:02 AM

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Karen Kresh, and I'm the Librarian at the Unalaska Public Library. I'm writing to respectfully request that you fully fund the Alaska State OWL (Online with Libraries) project. This program is essential in our community, where internet access is expensive and tightly capped. Home internet for our residents is too costly for many, and they use the library for access. Our library is partnering with the school to decrease costs and improve internet access for all residents, but it remains one of the most expensive items in the library operating budget.

OWL funding allows us to afford high-speed internet for library users. This funding also helps libraries statewide to leverage about \$2 million in federal E-rate funds each year. Without this funding, our internet will be slower and more costly, which would be a huge step backwards for our community.

Thank you very much for your time and for all of the hard work you're doing on behalf of the state.

Sincerely,

Karen Kresh