

From: [Therese Ashton](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Broadband Assistance Grant
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 10:07:32 AM

To the Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

I want to thank you for your work during a very difficult financial time for Alaska. There is much to consider and I'd like you to know we appreciate your efforts. I would like to address the Senates recommendation for the Broadband Assistance Grant that our district received this year.

As a rural community off the road system we have been working to create a positive and enriching learning environment for our students. We have much to be proud of in Tanana as well as acknowledge our areas of deficit that continue to be addressed. One area is having the ability to provide Internet speed that provides the physical means to bring in opportunities for our students through the Internet.

When I arrived in Tanana two years ago technology was not being used because the infrastructure was not in place. This meant that programs that had been purchased utilizing the Internet were not being used because the frustration of not having enough speed made it undependable. Because of the BAG we received this year we are running a variety of programs and are able to provide subjects for our students even if we do not have the teaching staff on site or if the class needed is not being offered this year. As time goes on utilizing the faster Internet we will continue to bring our students into the 21st century so they will be better prepared for opportunities not readily available before because of lack of exposure.

We know that our students are heading into a future where they will need to balance the addition of the appropriate use of technology in ways we cannot foresee. We need to guide them through the maze of positive and negative uses and **help students to create a world that runs the technology and are not run by the technology**. In order for our district to continue this the Broadband Assistance Grant will provide the means so that we can access the internet at least at a minimum of 10 Mbs. We need to equalize our educational system so all our students have a great shot at success in their future no matter their location.

Thank you for your consideration,

Thérèse

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