

**From:** [Lucinda Williams](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** OWL funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 10:33:00 AM

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I am writing this letter in support of the Alaska Online With Libraries program. OWL is an integral part of our Meetlakatla Centennial Library they have provided us with a laptop, a desktop, and an Early Learning desktop for children to learn computer basics as well as educational material. OWL also helps us to provide the public with fast internet connection and we have seen a rise in the number of people that come to the library to use the internet for job searching, Alaska PFD applications, taxes and many other reasons.

OWL also provides the library staff with training and growth opportunities and because of that we are able to keep our Library open an extra 5 hours a week. It may not sound like much but in a small community it makes a huge difference.

OWL has also provided the library with video conferencing equipment. Most recently we have used this equipment to connect with six other communities in Southeast Alaska for an 8 hour videoconferencing class titled Teaching Artist Academy. The participants were able to get UAS credit for the class. We were very fortunate to be able to have this class because without OWL we would not be able to have opportunities like this one to our community.

OWL provides the members of our community with the equipment and technology to be successful. Whether it is searching for a job, filing paperwork, or taking classes OWL is the reason we are able to provide these services. I am asking that the funding for OWL be continued as the value of OWL is monetarily immeasurable compared to the impact they make in the different communities all around Alaska. Thank You.

Lucinda Williams