

**From:** [julene](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Operating Budget  
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I am writing to encourage you to fully fund OWL and LiveHomework Help at the levels requested in Governor Walker's budget and approved in the House of Representatives' operating budget (\$762,000 and \$138,200 respectively). I or my daughters have used both of these services in Skagway.

It's pretty phenomenal what OWL has done to increase internet access quality across our state. Though we are not using the OWL contracted ISP for internet services at our public library, I believe the OWL project was the catalyst that got our local ISP to increase the speed of internet service for Skagway and other SE communities that it serves.. OWL did provide our public library with equipment which was leveraged for additional grant monies to provide a digital microform reader for viewing our local newspapers and land records as well as some State photograph holdings. It also provides the library the means to offer programs such as meeting and learning about the polar bears of the Alaska Zoo, and to learn about new Alaska Books from professional reviewers. OWL also provided training to local library staff on use of the equipment and connecting patrons to these resources. We need to continue funding OWL so the program continues to strive to keep Alaska from being hobbled by internet services that are inferior to what is being used by the rest of the country and the world.

LiveHomework Help needs to be retained for our students. My daughters used it during highschool. When I rode the ferry this past month, it was full of students on their way to tournaments in Sitka...these traveling students need Homework Help.

And now that I have mentioned the ferry, please...I understand the need to make budget cuts, however, the Alaska Marine Highway is taking a disproportionate cut without justification. It is so essential for travel in southeast Alaska for medical care, recreation, and business.

Thank you for your time. Julene Brown