

From: [Patricia Brown](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support for Online With Libraries (OWL)
Date: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 3:27:53 PM

Dear Senate Finance Committee members:

I am writing again to request your reconsideration of support for Online With Libraries (OWL). OWL provides broadband subsidies for Alaska's small and remote public libraries, a videoconferencing network for all Alaskans, and Internet technology assistance to Alaska public libraries.

Without OWL, Alaskan libraries will lose:

- Affordable and high speed Internet connections necessary for 21st century tasks and competencies.
- Videoconferencing capabilities which has allowed for student participation in classes not available in their own communities, local Board trainings, personal legal advice, healthcare advocacy, and shared programs and trainings between libraries.
- Access to information and resources and online library catalogs available only through consistent and high speed internet connections.

The House finance committee reinstated these funds with the stipulation that we look towards other funding by 2017. This plan allowed libraries the time needed to find funding to continue to maintain our current level of service. Please consider this option for this year.

Thank for your time and efforts during these difficult economic times.

Sincerely,

Patricia Brown

Director, Haines Borough Public Library

President, Alaska Library Association

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