



Pilot Point Tribal Council

2200 Main Street
P. O. Box 449
Pilot Point, Alaska 99649

Telephone (907) 797-2208
Fax (907) 797-2258
pptc-council@yahoo.com

March 3, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Pilot Point community library is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal for the Alaska State Library.

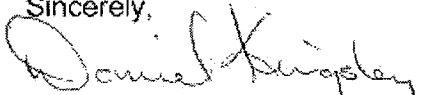
The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are essential elements to the realization of our mission. The Pilot Point Library strives to serve the educational and vocational development of our patrons as well as serving the quest for spiritual, cultural and general knowledge of our state, world and universe.

This project is consistent with the vision of improving the well-being of our community members by embracing our cultural values and strengthening our self-reliance through training, assistance, advocacy, and economic development.

This proposed project addresses the needs of our community such as reducing the long wait for an available computer and facilitate the ability to participate in training that requires a faster Internet connection.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the State Library on this important project.

Sincerely,


Daniel Kingsley, Grants Management
Pilot Point Community Library

Seldovia Public Library

PO Drawer H, Seldovia, AK 99663
seldovia.library@gmail.com

<http://seldovialibrary.wordpress.com>

907-234-7856
Library Director: Shirley Giles

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

March 4, 2010

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Seldovia Public Library is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are important elements in the realization of our mission of providing community access to and utilization of a broad range of information services.

Seldovia is a small and unwealthy community that is not located on the road system. It is only reached by boat or plane. Internet communication enables utilization by community members of many services that are, elsewhere, easily obtained in person but for us are complicated, expensive, and, often, weather-dependent. Because many community members lack computers or the ability to obtain adequate bandwidth to use them, they rely upon the library to provide such access as presently is feasible. Due to budget limitations, however, the library cannot afford adequate equipment to meet community needs nor are existing internet services able to provide sufficient connection speed to utilize video without long and repeated buffering.

Seldovia suffers from a high rate of unemployment. Local residents are often unable to find the resources to allow them to travel and reside elsewhere while they engage in training for new or improved job opportunities. Seldovians who would work from the community are limited by their lack of high speed communication access. Currently-employed residents must take leave from their jobs to obtain required continuing education where even an afternoon's refresher session requires a weekend of travel time and accommodations on top of more than \$500 in airfare.

The ability just to maintain current job qualifications without leaving town would represent an annual savings to the community of thousands of dollars annually, and the potential expansion of our employed job force would have much, much greater value, both in terms of increasing personal fiscal independence and in terms of reducing reliance upon public support. It is a sad aspect of Seldovia's location and access to services that our children and young adults must leave the community for education and cannot return to take up jobs here, and anything that would help reverse that trend would be embraced by local residents.

The Seldovia Public Library is prepared to participate in this initiative by offering space for equipment and supervised access. We have been an all-volunteer library serving this area for 75 years, and we have committed staff who are prepared to take specialized training and work with community members in utilizing improved internet communications.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the State Library on this important project.

Sincerely,

Shirley Giles
Director, Seldovia Public Library

Savannah Lewis
Library Tech Support & member, Board of Directors of the Seldovia Public Library

Seward Community Library

Box 2389 238 5th Ave
Seward, Alaska 99664
Phone 907-224-4008
Fax 907-224-3521
plinville@cityofseward.net
Patricia Linville, Director

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Almost daily at Seward Community Library we hear from patrons:

“Can you help me with a resume?”

“Where can I find the list of jobs available in Seward?”

“I have to apply for a job and they say it has to be done on-line. Can you help me?”

Where formerly these activities took place at a job center or with a copy of a resume form from a book, they now occur on-line, often through a high volume site with many users.

Additionally, our library catalog just migrated to a web-based format. Our city financial management procedures recently became web-based. We now send all our requisitions, purchase orders and time sheets electronically. Our library staff and patrons reach for the computer more often yet the time spent waiting for the sites to load and become operable makes expected efficiencies non-existent. We need increased bandwidth to accommodate the increased workload of the new systems.

Seward Community Library wholeheartedly supports the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

Seward Community Library does not have the resources to expand our bandwidth and look forward to working with the State Library in this cooperative project and the possibility of collectively benefiting from this project.

Sincerely,



Patricia Linville, Library Director

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Kettleson Memorial Library wholeheartedly supports the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are essential elements of the mission. The formalized mission and goals of Kettleson are as follows:

"The mission of Kettleson Memorial Library is to provide a collection of informational, cultural, recreational, educational, and local historical resources to meet the evolving library needs of its patrons and to promote reading as an essential element of an informed citizenry in a democracy.

Kettleson Memorial Library endeavors to enrich and enhance the quality of life of each member of our community by assisting in the acquisition of knowledge, promoting the love of reading and encouraging lifelong learning. We strive to provide services and resources that inform, enrich and empower each person we serve through free, equal and reliable access to informational, educational, cultural, and recreational resources. We endeavor to acquire and utilize appropriate communications technologies that extend, expand and enhance service in an inviting, healthy environment in which individuals are encouraged to safely access, explore and discover the world."

Specifically, Kettleson not only serves all members of our community, but visitors of all kinds-fisherpersons, businesspersons, government employees and elected officials, cruise ship passengers as well as crew members. We are finding that many financial and travel activities, government transactions, online job training and educational coursework are moving to the online realm. Without ready access, citizens find themselves unable to participate fully in the many opportunities that online access offers to those who have fast, reliable internet access. Public libraries often are the only providers of that access. We cannot allow the digital divide to grow any larger.

On a more specific note, we have opened the library during off-hours to allow Sitkans to file their permanent fund dividend checks online with the

assistance of a legislative information officer. Sitkans conduct whole business enterprises over the internet in the library. Citizens compose resumes, conduct job searches and submit job applications, in the library. Many students enrolled in distance education classes submit coursework and take exams online. This is a vital service.

Our community is quite isolated. We have no road system connecting us to the rest of the country. This partnership with the state library has the potential to make videoconferencing a real opportunity for our citizens to receive training and communicate with the wider world without expensive and time-consuming travel. The inclusion of training and IT support as part of the grant is a component introducing when introducing new technology. In addition, we have contacted Sitka Tribe of Alaska to inform them of this project. This kind of project would enhance opportunities for inter-tribal communication across the state.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the State Library on this important project.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jones
Kettleson Memorial Library Director
Sitka, Alaska



Skagway Public Library
P. O. Box 394
Skagway, Alaska 99840
907/983-BOOK(2665)
j.fairbanks@skagway.org

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Skagway Public Library is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are important elements to the realization of our mission. The Skagway Public Library mission is to support the educational, civic and cultural activities of the community as well as the intellectual and creative endeavors of the individual, to promote an enlightened citizenship and the enrichment of personal lives. A community the size of Skagway doesn't have many local training opportunities. While the internet makes it possible to share in distance learning, currently using online video is cumbersome and frustrating. The proposal would allow citizens in our community to take part in interactive learning experiences such as university classes, job training opportunities, adult continuing education classes, and even Live Homework Help for adults and K-12 students.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the State Library on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Fairbanks". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Julie Fairbanks
Librarian



Pribilof School District

St. George School • St. Paul School
Box 905 • St. Paul Island • Alaska 99660
Phone: 907-546-2221 • Fax: 907-546-2327

March 12, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Pribilof School District which operates the **St. Paul Island School Community Library** and the **St. George Island School Community Library** is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are very essential elements to the realization of our mission. The mission of our libraries is to:

Encourage and have frequent use of the library by all citizens of and visitors to the Pribilof Islands by :

Creating a pleasant environment for children, student and adults;

Promoting the Libraries as a way of obtaining access to resources available in magazines, books and the **Internet;**

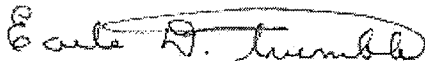
And providing citizens a place to come to enjoy their love of reading and reading activates and the use of the Internet.

- This project is consistent with the vision of our Libraries being an open and useful community resource as well as being critical in our ability to deliver these resources.
- This project will provide needed educational opportunities to the community though higher quality access to distance learning over the Internet.


- This project will greatly enhance our ability to utilize the services that only a good Internet connection and Internet connection equipment can provide.
- The project will address the needs of our community such as replacing our old and slow equipment, enhance our Internet speeds by providing more band width. Currently our users are faced with long waiting periods for a chair at a commuter as well as the slow connection speeds we are only able to provide. In some cases we can not take advantage of all the services the Internet could provide because our band width is below the standard to even watch a video clip.
- The Pribilof School Districts Libraries can contribute to the overall success of this initiative by helping to provide high-quality content, information or training in the use of the Internet. At this time we are prepared to provide match funds in the amount of \$3,000.00 per Library for a total of \$6,000.00
- Through this partnership, we will have the potential to offer new opportunities for our users to have access to long distance learning opportunities that will enable them to find jobs and improve their job skills.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the State Library on this important project.

Sincerely,



Earle D. Trumble
Business Manager and Library Director



Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Avenue, Suite 125
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Sutton Public Library is in complete support of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The goals and mission of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Libraries states: "The libraries will support the educational, civic, and cultural activities of their communities, as well as the intellectual, creative and inspirational endeavors of the individual. Mat-Su Borough libraries combine technology and quality services to enrich the lives of those within the community, strengthening the Matanuska-Susitna Library Network as a whole." The proposal's goals of providing affordable broadband access education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are important as we strive to accomplish our mission.

This project will greatly enhance our ability to provide service to people who are taking classes online, applying for work and unemployment and providing a place that the internet connection will support the services.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the State Library on this project.

Nancy Bertels
Sutton Public Library
PO Box 266
Sutton, AK 99674
(907) 745-4467 ph., (907) 745-1057 fax
nancy.bertels@matnugov.us

Takotna Tribal Council
P.O. Box 7529
Takotna, AK 99675
Ph. (907)298-2212 * Fax (907)298-2314
Vera Lynn Goods, 1st Chief * Terry Huffman, TA

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Takotna Library is pleased to be an active partner in the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are essential elements to the realization of our mission. The Takotna Library's goal is to actively participate in this project. It is the hope of the community to be allowed access to all of the benefits the broadband would inquire.

Through this partnership, we will have the potential to offer new opportunities to our community by tremendously expanding our networking in the library. Our local library does currently have internet access; however, it is extremely limited. Our community needs include; access to online class services, better access to online education sites, and easier access to research our students may need for a school class. These are just a few examples as to which a faster internet connection would benefit.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. Our community would greatly benefit from these broadband services. I look forward to working with the State Library on this important project.

Sincerely,

Misty Wachter
Librarian

*Terry Huffman
Takotna Tribal Council
Tribal Administration
for Misty who is out
of town attending library
training.*



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Talkeetna Public Library

PO Box 768 • Talkeetna, AK 99676
Phone (907) 733-2359 • Fax (907) 733-3017

March 8, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Talkeetna Public Library is very excited to be an active partner and supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal from the Alaska State Library.

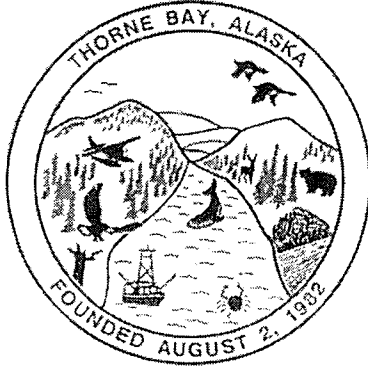
This proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment, and IT support are integral, crucial elements we need to realize our mission. That mission reads in part, "We welcome everyone to follow their interests, expand their dreams, learn new skills, and interact with other members of the community and others throughout the world."

Allow me to give you just a few examples of how this access will help the residents of our small, rural Alaska community. We offer the ability to search for jobs and submit job applications, but it can be a very frustrating process with the slow reaction time provided by our current internet access. It is not uncommon for a job applicant to spend several hours trying to complete the search and application process, and many give up. Several distance learning students have attempted to use our computer access to either take classes or complete on-line examinations. The bandwidth and slow speed of our connections make this extremely difficult or impossible to achieve. Because we are a remote, end-of-the-road community, attending Borough Assembly meetings in order to testify, or flying to Juneau to talk to legislators, is at best an inconvenience, and at worst, a complete roadblock to communicating with lawmakers. Finally, many of our residents live off the road system, and "off the grid." The library is the only place in town currently offering internet access for those without their own computers. When these residents come to town, they can't afford to spend a long time waiting for an available terminal. Their time can be worth their lives. In each of these cases, the proposal's goals will vastly improve our ability to meet the needs of our diverse community.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. The Talkeetna Library will contribute to the overall success of this initiative by providing as much support as we possibly can. We look forward to working with the State Library on this very important project.

Sincerely,

Ann Yadon
Librarian
Talkeetna Public Library



CITY OF THORNE BAY

P.O. BOX 19110
THORNE BAY, ALASKA 99919
(907) 828-3380
FAX (907) 828-3374
email: ctbclerk@thornebay.net

March 8, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

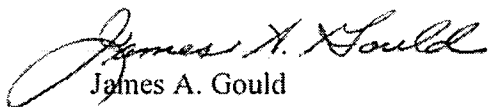
The City of Thorne Bay supports the Alaska State Library grant proposal to bring faster internet service to Alaska's public libraries.

The City of Thorne Bay currently pays for all internet service fees, which cost \$240 per month. We are evaluating this expense and looking for more cost effective options. However, the reliability of service in our remote location is a big concern.

The majority of the Thorne Bay Public Library patrons visit the library to use the internet. The library provides the only free internet access in our community. Thorne Bay residents rely on the library to file Alaska Permanent Dividend Fund applications, search for jobs, research homework assignments and communicate with family at a distance. The internet service that our library provides fills an important need in our community.

The Denali Commission has listed Thorne Bay as a "distressed community" due to the lack of employment opportunities and overall economic health of our area. We have already had some drastic reductions in funding for our library director position, and more cuts are expected for the FY11 budget. We rely on the Public Library Assistance Grant each year to continue to purchase the majority of our new reading materials. If the Alaska State Library were awarded the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant, the City of Thorne Bay may be able to use the remaining funds in other areas such as books, shelving, librarian stipend or other supplies that are desperately needed.

Sincerely,


James A. Gould
Mayor

Tok Community Library

PO Box 227

Tok, Alaska 99780

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian

Alaska State Library

W. Third Ave., Suite 125

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Tok Community Library is pleased to be a supporter of the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are crucial elements to the realization of our mission to provide public library service to the community of Tok.

This project will greatly enhance the ability of the citizens of Tok to access reference materials, state and federal agencies, information, forms, applications, and training that currently are difficult to access or not accessible due to internet connection speed. These include PFD applications, Veterans affairs applications, food handlers training, and safe driver training and tests.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the State library on this important project.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Roth

Librarian, Tok Community

City of Unalaska
Department of Parks, Culture and Recreation
Unalaska Public Library
P.O. Box 610
Unalaska, AK 99685
Ph: (907) 581-5060 Fax: (907) 581-5266



March 5, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Unalaska Public Library is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are essential elements to the realization of our mission. The Unalaska Public Library Mission reads:

The Unalaska Public Library will improve the quality of life in the community it serves by providing access to popular reading materials, and by acting as a gateway to learning and knowledge for children and adults.

- This project will greatly enhance our ability to serve the public as well as increasing our community knowledge-base.
- Internet Connectivity is the Number One problem faced by our community.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the State Library on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Masoni".

Daniel Masoni
Librarian



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
SOUTHEAST
Juneau • Ketchikan • Sitka

William A. Egan Library

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. 3rd Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

March 9, 2010

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The William A. Egan Library, University of Alaska Southeast (UAS), Juneau is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking in Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

Any improvement in broadband access for small communities in Alaska increases the educational and employment opportunities of residents. Improving bandwidth to the level of national minimums, and optimally further increasing it in alignment with the American Library Association recommendation of 1.5 Mbps is essential. Many applications, training, and employment tests are now only available online. Extensive databases licensed statewide and vetted resources on all subjects are delivered through SLED (sled.alaska.edu). Limited and extremely slow access to the internet further deprives already isolated communities of the opportunity to become familiar with the internet.

Librarians at Egan Library help to train students in information literacy competencies. Education students in particular may find ways to share their knowledge with students and residents in their areas if access is available. Dr. Larry Harris, UAS Dean of Education, felt improved local internet access would contribute to better preparing students for college or voc-tech programs.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. It addresses a long-standing need and will make a remarkable difference for many Alaskans. I look forward to working with the Alaska State Library on this exciting project.

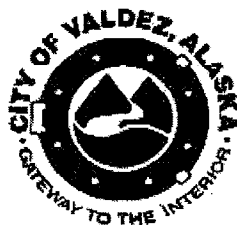
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carol Hedlin'.

Carol Hedlin,
Regional Library Services Director,
William A. Egan Library, BE1
11120 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801

Email: chedlin@uas.alaska.edu
Phone: 907-796-6467





Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Valdez Consortium Library is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are essential elements in keeping with our library's mission. Valdez Consortium Library has a mandate to meet the ongoing and changing educational, informational and recreational needs of the community through access to emerging technologies. Access to Broadband Internet would help our library to provide opportunities to our patrons that are only available through a faster Internet connection.

The demand for Internet services at our library has increased dramatically in recent years. Providing Broadband Internet access will greatly enhance the ability for our library to meet the needs of our community and to continue to expand services as needed.

Increased Internet speed will also offer opportunities to our library staff to participate in network conferencing and educational opportunities without the expense and inconvenience of long distance travel. Since our yearly budget for travel and training is limited, only a few staff members are able receive continuing education per year. The ability for all staff to participate in educational opportunities throughout the year would greatly enhance the services we can provide.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the State Library on this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim McCarty".

Kim McCarty
Head Librarian



ROUTE 2, BOX 2 - SAXMAN, KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901 · FAX: (907) 247-2504 · PHONE (907) 247-2502

March 9, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Avenue, Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Linda Thibodeau,

The Organized Village of Saxman wishes to express support of Alaska State Library's Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration "Networking Alaska Public Libraries" grant proposal, in which Alaska State Library seek to increase broadband for participating libraries. The Organized Village of Saxman believes this grant will be very valuable for community users who use public libraries in rural areas of our State.

The Organized Village of Saxman is the federally recognized Tribe established under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 serving 385 tribal citizens of Saxman, Alaska. Our mission is to serve the tribal people of Saxman to create a healthy, secure, educated, self-reliant community..." We are supportive of Alaska State Library's interest to create greater access, increase internet speed, and establish a conferencing network providing rural Alaskans with increased communication and educational opportunities.

For Saxman community and tribal citizens the library is a safe, easy, and important source of research for students, teachers, and scholars. Users can find a collection of media other than books including audio tapes, maps, documents, CD's, cassettes, videotapes, storage media such as microfilm/microfiche, and the internet. We are in an age where computers are necessary, yet many homes in Saxman do not own computers because many are unemployed or are very low-income families. The students attending the local public schools have some access to computer while at school, but the picture changes for after-school needs. If a family does not own a computer then the likely source for use of one would be at the Ketchikan Public Library. We want students to have full, fast, and ready access to sources, resources, and internet services at the public library.

In closing, we are proud the Alaska State Library is willing to establish a "Networking Alaska Public Libraries" project to help our local Ketchikan Public Library and the Organized Village of Saxman.

Sincerely,

Lee Wallace
President

copy/file: Saxman I.R.A. Council



CITY OF WASILLA

• Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library •
391 North Main Street • Wasilla • Alaska • 99654-7085
• Telephone 907-376-5913 • Fax 907-376-2347 •

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 West Third Avenue, Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

March 9, 2010

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The grant proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are crucial elements to the realization of our mission of providing access to a broad range of resources designed to meet the educational, professional, intellectual, cultural and recreational needs of the area's diverse, rapidly growing population.

Our library is located in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, which is approximately the size of the state of West Virginia, and is one of the fastest growing areas in the state. I am very excited about the possibilities of this grant; in addition to electronic resources, through this partnership, we will have the potential to offer new opportunities which make local and state government more accessible to people. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough headquarters are located in Palmer, which can mean that people who live in Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, or further north have at least a three hour drive just to participate in an assembly meeting or government hearing. Additionally, although there is a Legislative Information Office located in Wasilla, this is the closest office for people of this borough to participate in state government, which can also be at least a three hour drive, during some of the worst winter weather.

Moreover, the project addresses the needs of our community by offering the possibilities of electronic job training and educational opportunities to the people who live here. This is increasingly important as our unemployment rate is hovering at 11% and is expected to increase. Currently, due to the high demand for Internet service and the limited availability, tasks such as taking online courses, applying for Permanent Fund Dividend applications, e-filing taxes and streaming training videos are simply not possible.

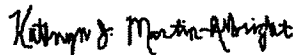
This proposal's goals tie into our technology vision, which is to provide cost-effective, reliable, and equitable information access for the local community. As the rest of the country is moving

into 4G technology, our patrons need to have access to the same electronic information as the "Lower 48" in order to stay economically and educationally competitive in resources, job training, and information access. Our library recognizes the increasing public expectation for information access options, additional electronic resources, and reliable network connections. Through this partnership, we will have the opportunity to expand electronic resources. The expansion of electronic resources can supplement, enhance and add value both to the collection and the services we currently offer.

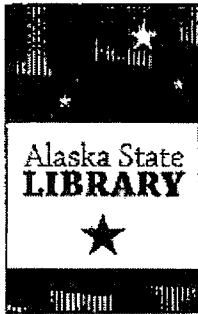
In addition, as technology applications are being merged with traditional resources in order to meet increasing demand for information beyond library walls, high-speed Internet access and other information technologies have become a necessity for the library staff to adequately perform traditional library tasks such as materials acquisition, cataloging, interlibrary loan, reference and reader's advisory, all of which directly benefit our patrons by being able to supply them with the information they need.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. The Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library looks forward to working with the State Library on this crucial and timely project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn J. Martin-Albright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop at the end of the last name.

Kathryn J. Martin-Albright, MLS
Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library Director



Networking Alaska Public Libraries:

Statement of Support from Alaska Public Libraries

Networking Alaska Public Libraries is an \$8 million project that seeks to increase broadband in participating libraries to 1.5 Mbps per library. The project will off-set the additional costs of increased broadband access, while creating a network that will bulk purchase broadband on behalf of the libraries, ensuring high quality Internet access, and forming a centralized contact to help secure federally subsidized Internet (E-Rate). All libraries will also receive video conferencing equipment so that as Internet speeds increase, the libraries will be able to participate in a conferencing network that will provide rural Alaskans with increased communication and opportunities. In addition, libraries will receive training and technical support for these new services.

The Alaska State Library has the support of public libraries that would be interested in receiving additional bandwidth and/or video conferencing equipment and services through a BTOP grant. The signatures below are associated with public libraries and have indicated their interest in supporting the Alaska State Library's project, *Networking Alaska Public Libraries*.

We, the librarians of Alaska public libraries, understand the purpose of the Networking Alaska Public Libraries project. We support the project and are interested in increased Internet access video conferencing service, and/or technical support in our libraries.

Patricia L. Welch

Name

(PATRICIA L. WELCH)

PRESIDENT

Title

*WHALE PASS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
ALASKA*

Library



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WILLOW PUBLIC LIBRARY

P O Box 129, Willow, Alaska 99688
Phone 495-7323

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Willow Public Library is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are essential elements to the realization of our mission. The Willow Public Library's vision statement says, "The library exists to enrich the personal lives of its patrons and to encourage continuous self-education. Access to information technology is an integral part of this mission. Internet access has become necessary for providing information to our patrons and for performing routine library tasks such as interlibrary loan, book acquisition, cataloging, and reference services."

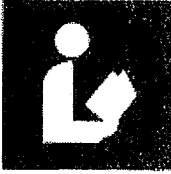
This project will provide needed educational opportunities and vocational training and job skills access to the community. The project addresses the needs of our community such as long waits for internet service, our users' inability to participate in training that requires a faster internet connection, the problems with trying to watch a video clip, and gaming usage. All of this contributes to meeting the needs within our community which include items such as employment searching, online training to keep their jobs such as food handlers, license renewal, applying for the PFD, homeschooling access, etc.

Willow Public Library can contribute to the overall success of this initiative by supporting this project and contributing when possible with training or funding. Through this partnership, we will have the potential to offer new opportunities specifically for education and public participation in meetings of all sorts.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the State Library on this important project.

Sincerely,

Nicole Pease
Librarian



Irene Ingle Public Library
P.O. Box 679
Wrangell, Alaska 99929
Fax: 907/874-2520 Phone: 907/874-3535 e-mail: wrglib@aptalaska.net

March 3, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Juneau, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The public library of Wrangell, Alaska is in full support of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal being submitted by the Alaska State Library.

The Irene Ingle Public Library's mission is to provide "free access to materials to satisfy educational, cultural, informational, and recreational needs of constituents of all ages, backgrounds, and occupations and it must be met both from within and from beyond the library's own collection." Our public library is the only free public internet access on our island community and the citizens of Wrangell would greatly benefit from improved high-speed broadband connectivity and video conferencing capability.

This grant would further benefit our community in that they would:

- Have access to videoconferencing
- Be able to participate in interactive learning with universities
- Have trained staff available to address IT issues
- Have the ability to view video clips without experiencing downloading problems
- Have the capability to receive on-line job training

Please contact me if I can provide any further information or support for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Kay Jabusch, Librarian

Service
Providers
-
Vendors



March 10, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Alaska Communications Systems is pleased to be a supporter and potential partner in the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

Alaska Communications Systems is a full system provider in the state of Alaska offering a complete suite of services and products.

We have experience in providing broadband services in Alaska, including remote/rural communities. We already serve many communities anchor institutions in Alaska. We understand the Alaska State Library's goals for the project and support their efforts. We believe that the project would bring value to the citizens of Alaska.

We have counseled the Alaska State Library on the technical elements of the project and/or have provided them with service cost estimates. The scale and scope of the project is appropriate and is readily achievable. We have the ability to serve (all 105) public libraries, and implement this project within months

We are interested in the project and stand ready to submit a detailed proposal when/if the Alaska State Library is ready.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bowman". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Mike Bowman
VP Network Projects
Alaska Communications Systems



AtContact Communications LLC
2539 North Highway 67
PO Box 348
Sedalia, Colorado, 80135

March 10, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

AtContact Communications is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are consistent with AtContact's mission to provide rural broadband to remote and underserved communities in Alaska and across the nation.

AtContact is currently an independent provider of broadband satellite services in Alaska, and we recognize that Alaska's geography uniquely makes satellite services essential to that state's ability to be a part of the 21st century global economy. For that reason, we have focused significant resources in the state, including the establishment of the only independently operated satellite downlink hub in Anchorage, Alaska to link communities directly into the regional fiber and voice network rather than detouring through the Lower 48 with the accompanying degradation in service.

We understand the Alaska State Library's needs, given the low broadband speeds currently available to nearly 70% of the library system, and the attendant benefits that will accrue to remote and rural Alaskan communities with higher broadband speeds and library staff trained to help local users take advantage of the latest in broadband and videoconferencing technologies. With so much of the modern economy and even government services going on-line, and with the latest advances in distance learning and telemedicine, it is only logical that establishing a nexus for broadband access through the library system would improve the quality of life and other health and economic outcomes for these vulnerable US citizens.

The Alaska State Library project is technically achievable, and is an efficient way to land this level of broadband access in remote communities. Having worked in



AtContact Communications LLC
2539 North Highway 67
PO Box 348
Sedalia, Colorado, 80135

the communications industry in Alaska for many years, we can clearly affirm that because of the huge distances and climate in the state, this is the only fiscally prudent way for broadband services to reach many communities. Terrestrial backhaul such as fiber or microwave is simply not possible given the environment and distances in Alaska.

AtContact has the capability to provide these services via our satellite downlink hubs in Anchorage and in Sedalia, Colorado, and they are well within our technical capability to deliver. If the Alaska State Library wins funding to go ahead with this project, we would be eager to participate in a competitive selection process to provide the broadband backhaul for the project.

We wish the Alaska State Library success on this important effort and are proud to offer our letter of support to this worthy activity.

Sincerely,

David M. Drucker
Founder & CEO
AtContact Communications

HUGHES

NETWORK SYSTEMS

11717 Exploration Lane
Germantown, Maryland 20876

March 5, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Hughes is pleased to be a supporter and potential partner in the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

Hughes provides broadband satellite connectivity supporting Internet, data, voice and video requirements in the state of Alaska and throughout the US.

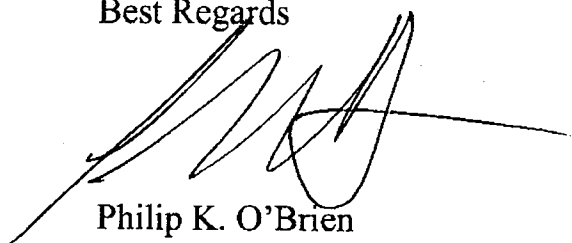
- Hughes is the largest satellite service provider in the US and delivers broadband services to over 500,000 locations throughout the US including many remote/rural communities in Alaska
- We currently serve many government, enterprise and community anchor institutions in Alaska
- We understand the Alaska State Library's goals for the project and support their efforts to bring broadband access and video conferencing to rural communities in Alaska
- We believe that the project would bring value to the citizens of Alaska and address the communication challenges that many remote communities face
- We have counseled the Alaska State Library on the technical elements of the project and/or have provided them with service cost estimates
- Based on our experience deploying Satellite networks, the scale and scope of the project is appropriate and is readily achievable
- We have the ability to serve the vast majority of the public libraries' sites (103 of 106), and implement this project within 12 months

We are keenly interested in the success of this project and delivering a broadband and video conferencing to help improve the communications infrastructure for

remote communities throughout Alaska. We are prepared to submit a detailed proposal when/if the Alaska State Library is ready.

Thank you for your attention.

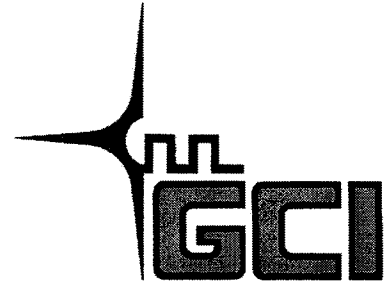
Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. O'Brien', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Philip K. O'Brien
Vice President, Legal
Hughes Network Systems

March 10, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

GCI is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library system.

GCI provides telecommunications, Internet, video conferencing and other services throughout the state of Alaska. We provide services to consumers, businesses, governments, school districts and health corporations in every corner of the state. GCI is a facilities based carrier and we maintain our own fiber optic, satellite, microwave and copper cable facilities across the state.

The Alaska State Library's goals for the project are ideal and we support their efforts. While GCI has experience in providing broadband services in Alaska, including remote/rural communities and we already serve many community anchor institutions in Alaska, our interest is in the improvement in accessibility and the increase in availability of broadband Internet access to the community members served by the state library system. We believe that education and economic development will be improved with this program.

GCI believes that the scale and scope of the project is appropriate and is readily achievable. We are also capable of participating in the implementation of this project and are able to submit a detailed proposal when/if the Alaska State Library is ready.

Good luck with your grant proposal. The project would certainly benefit the entire state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Mollerstuen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Craig Mollerstuen
VP Broadband Services – Alaska Operations

Global Satellite Solutions, LLC
1403 Huguenot Road Suite 101
Midlothian, VA 23113
804-378-7572

March 8, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Global Satellite Solutions, LLC is pleased to be a potential partner in, the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

Global Satellite Solutions, LLC provides satellite internet service, and video conferencing in the state of Alaska. Global Satellite Solutions is Value Added Reseller through Spacenet.

- We have experience in providing broadband services in Alaska, including remote/rural communities
- We already serve community anchor institutions in Alaska
- We understand the Alaska State Library's goals for the project and support their efforts
- We believe that the project would bring value to the citizens of Alaska
- We have counseled the Alaska State Library on the technical elements of the project and/or have provided them with service cost estimates
- The scale and scope of the project is appropriate and is readily achievable
- We have the ability to serve (all 105) public libraries, and implement this project within months
- We are interested in the project and stand ready to submit a detailed proposal when/if the Alaska State Library is ready

Regards,


Stephen C Layne



March 4, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Polycom® and the Polycom® Grant Assistance Program (PGAP) are pleased to be a potential partner for the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* project of the Alaska State Library.

PGAP is a non-partisan group that assists public, private and nonprofit organizations in researching, applying for, and securing grant funds that support collaborative technology.

Polycom® offers best-in-class, unified collaborative technology in voice and video for public libraries and community organizations. Polycom works with libraries to create the most comprehensive portfolio of integrated, standards-based, end-to-end solutions for all networks. We deliver a complete portfolio of secure and innovative, collaborative solutions that provide real-time interaction for day-to-day and mission critical conferencing requirements, improve the quality of services offered, support the modernization of organization infrastructures, support public initiatives like distance learning, and streamline operations.

We are interested in this project and stand ready to submit a detailed proposal for collaborative technology when the Alaska State Library is ready.


Sincerely,

Elizabeth Holden, Director, PGAP

with multiple social service agencies. This initiative will result in better planning of services and supports for families and result in healthier, safer and more productive families and communities. The success of this effort relies on the ability of multidisciplinary service teams to meet and communicate regularly with families. Distance delivery of services to families in rural Alaska is always problematic, but access to increased broadband in community libraries, Families First facilitators and out partner representatives would be able to reach out to recipient families more effectively to help them become employed and self-sufficient.

We are excited about the potential that this proposal has to make a tremendous difference in the daily lives and the future of rural Alaskans. We are happy to voice our support and wish you the best of luck on your grant application.

Sincerely,



Rorald Kreher
Chief of Field Operations
Division of Public Assistance

Other Partners

March 12, 2010

Linda Thibodeau
State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are crucial elements to the success of business in rural Alaska. In 2009, the State Chamber made broadband access in rural Alaska one of its top legislative priorities. Broadband access is the lifeblood of today's businesses. With public access to broadband in Alaska libraries statewide, any business, no matter what its size, has the ability to be part of the online community of businesses in Alaska and the world.

With Alaska's population spread out geographically beyond that of any other state, with the lack of roads to most communities in this State, with many of our State's communities separated by water . . . more than any other state save Hawaii . . . it is *essential* that our population have access to this improved communication medium. If Alaskan's are to be able to continue to live in small communities they must be able to pursue livelihoods and participate fully in the Alaskan, national and international economies.

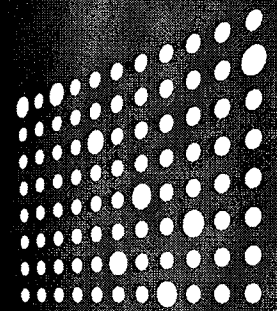
This proposal is also good for all members of the State Chamber, because if we improve the ability of businesses to communicate, we have improved the environment for businesses throughout the state, urban and rural. That is a core mission of the State Chamber of Commerce and the reason we are support this grant proposal for the Alaska State Library.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and careful attention to the grant application of the Alaska State Library.

Yours in economic prosperity,



Wayne A. Stevens
President/CEO



ALASKA STATE
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

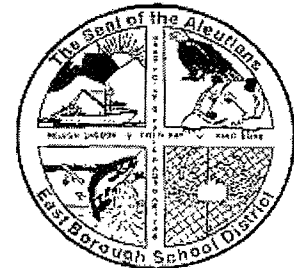
Headquarters
217 2nd Street
Suite 201
Juneau
Alaska 99801
(907) 586-2323
FAX 463-5515

Regional Office
601 W. 5th Ave.
Suite 700
Anchorage
Alaska 99501
(907) 278-2722
FAX 278-6643

www.alaskachamber.com

ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 429
Sand Point, Alaska 99661-0429
Phone: (907) 383-5222
FAX: (907) 383-3496



March 8, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Aleutians East Borough School District (AEBSD) is pleased to support the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library. The proposal's goals of providing affordable high speed public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are essential to the continued viability of providing a quality education to our students in a six school site District that spans 15,000 square miles along the Aleutian Chain.

I am including a copy of the District's Strategic Plan for 2009-2014 for the reader's review. (See Attachment A) As one can see, our District Strategic Plan's Goals and Objectives dovetail very closely with the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal. If funded, such a state plan will be of immense assistance to Bush schools, libraries and communities. It will help level the educational equity factor for students and communities in rural and remote Alaska. It will most assuredly move our schools and communities forward!

Additionally, the Alaska State Library proposal, if properly funded, will augment the work of many Alaska educators who are currently working on developing a Virtual School with a statewide focus. The Virtual School is the dream of Alaska's School Commissioner Larry LeDoux and educators like me who see how the *Alaska State Libraries* grant proposal complements what we are doing with the Virtual School.

In summary, AEBSD is in total support of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* proposal and will assist in whatever way we can to make it a success for our schools, communities and libraries in our Borough as well as for all Alaska.

Sincerely,

Dr. Phil Knight

SERVING

AKUTAN
Box 25
Akutan, AK 99559
(907) 698-2205

COLD BAY
Box 128
Cold Bay, AK 99571
(907) 532-2409

FALSE PASS
Box 30
False Pass, AK 99583
(907) 548-2224

KING COVE
Box 69
King Cove, AK 99612
(907) 497-3354

NELSON LAGOON
Box 019
Nelson Lagoon, AK 99571-8998
(907) 388-2225

SAND POINT
Box 269
Sand Point, AK 99561
(907) 383-2393

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT****OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION**

Dr. Deena M. Paramo, Assistant Superintendent of Education

501 N Gulkana Street, Palmer, Alaska 99645

Phone: 907-746-9212 • Fax: 907-746-9292

www.matsuk12.us

Networking Alaska Public Libraries

Letter of Support

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are essential elements to the realization of our mission. Our mission is: **Mat-Su Borough School District develops citizens for a global society by inspiring students to think, learn, achieve, and care.**

MSBSD feels this project is consistent with the vision of inspiring students to think, learn, achieve, and care. MSBSD feels this project will provide needed educational opportunities, vocational training and job skills access to the communities our schools serve. MSBSD feels the affordability and interoperability goals of this project will greatly enhance our ability to provide professional development to teachers and a greater choice of courses to students across vast distances.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deena Paramo

Assistant Superintendent of Education and Instruction

"...developing citizens for a global society by inspiring students to think, learn, achieve, and care."

RECEIVED

Networking Alaska Public Libraries Support from Alaska Organizations

FEB 11 2010

ALAS STATE LIBRARY

Organization: Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

Contact: Brett Hill, IT Dept., brett.hill@matsuk12.us

How can your organization support the Alaska State Library Broadband Grant Proposal?

- Letter of Support
- Financial Support
- Operational Partner
- Other: _____

Please briefly explain how your organization and its members will benefit from increased broadband to rural communities and a statewide videoconferencing network (we may use these as quotes in the grant application):

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District (MSBSD) would benefit from increased broadband and a statewide videoconferencing network. MSBSD has several rural schools in Glacier View, Willow, Talkeetna, and Trapper Creek. All would greatly benefit from the grant's goals of greater affordability and better interoperability with other networks such as K-12 education. Such networks would allow for professional development and instruction without the need for travel. Our small rural schools do not have the staff to offer many elective or AP courses. A video conferencing network would allow more course options and content to be delivered to these schools from our core area around Palmer and Wasilla. Travel for professional development is often a 180 mile round trip between Talkeetna/TrapperCreek and our Administrative offices in Palmer. The ability to provide professional development over a video conferencing network would save time on travel, money for mileage reimbursements, and keep our staff safer during conditions of poor light and icy roads. Greater affordability and faster access to web resources would benefit all of our 40+ schools. The district has many subscriptions to instructional and learning resources that reside on web servers in other states. A faster Internet connection would really improve the instructional experience of students and staff using those resources. For example, during President Obama's inauguration speech, the district was charged \$7,000 in excess Internet downloads for classrooms trying to stream the speech live. Even with the excess charges, the viewing experience was poor or non-existent due to bandwidth limitations.

Please send your letter of support as an email attachment to rich.greenfield@alaska.edu or fax it to 907-269-6580.



Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99503 p: 907.562.7380 f: 907.562.0438 www.swamc.org

Alaska Peninsula
Aleutian Chain
Bristol Bay
Kodiak Island
Pribilof Islands

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian
Alaska State Library
344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

SWAMC is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library. The Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) is a non-profit regional economic development organization for Southwest Alaska. SWAMC serves three subregions of Southwest Alaska: the Aleutian/Pribilofs, Bristol Bay, and Kodiak. The isolation of the communities in this region makes access to high-speed internet vital to both economic development and day to day communication needs. In these remote areas broadband is just as essential as paved roads and other conventional infrastructure in order to promote the spread of ideas and information.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are crucial elements to the realization of our mission of supporting economic development in the southwest region. This project will greatly enhance our communities' abilities to provide long distance education to residents, increase effectiveness in telemedicine in an area with little ability to travel to hospitals, widen economic development opportunities across the board, as well as provide stable communication mechanisms throughout the region, especially to fisherman and their families.

It is crucial for Alaska to find an effective way to provide broadband technology to all of its residents, especially those in the more isolated rural Alaska and the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal is a great first step to reaching this goal.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Abbott

Kathryn Abbott, Broadband Specialist
Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference