

First Alaskans Institute

March 10, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Alaska Native Policy Center at First Alaskans Institute is very supportive of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library. In fact, should the State Library receive the grant, we are excited at the possibility of finding new, more efficient, and interactive ways to connect with Alaska Native leaders, people, communities, and policy-makers from across the state on a wide variety of policy issues and dialogue opportunities.

Right now, it is difficult to include people in rural areas in statewide events because the internet service is slow to non-existent. Last year, during our statewide discussion series on Alaska Native perspectives on 50 years of Statehood, we attempted to provide webcam coverage and interaction for people all over the state. Unfortunately, service was so bad in areas outside of Alaska's urban areas that most people who wanted to participate gave up and logged off. As a result they were not able to add their voice nor were we able to hear their perspective during this needed conversation. If there had been broadband services in the libraries, we could have partnered with them to host our dialogue so those without internet access or with slow service could come together at the local library to participate in these important dialogues. We look forward to a day in the near future when all of Alaska can participate fully in the amazing opportunities broadband internet access creates.

As described above, the proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support will greatly enhance our ability to advance our mission. The Policy Center provides Native leaders and other policy makers with the best available knowledge in order that Alaska Natives

Founding Board

William L. (Ugiagruk) Hensley
Inupiaq

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Haida-Tsimshian

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Tlingit

Byron I. Mallott
Tlingit

Morris Thompson
Athabaskan

Mission

Advance Alaska
Natives through
community engagement,
information and research,
collaboration, and
leadership development.

608 E Street
Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501

P 907.677.1700

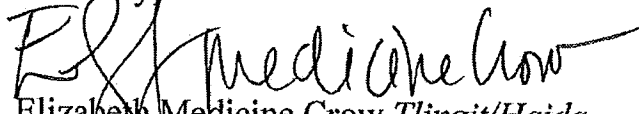
F 907.677.1780

info@firstalaskans.org

www.firstalaskans.org

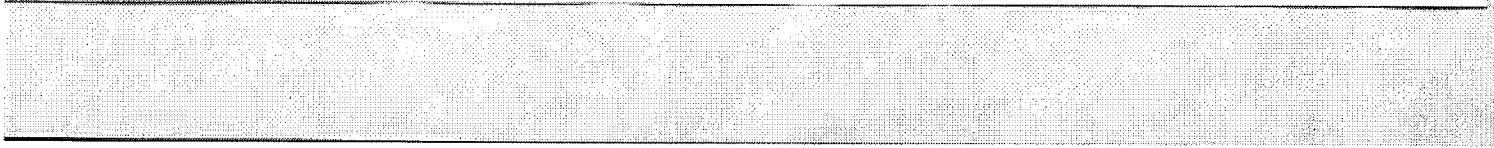
be proactively involved in - and influence - the education, economic and social policy issues that impact our future as 21st century indigenous peoples. Our vision is "*Native Minds Shaping Our Future*," but without broadband connectivity on even the community level there are so many voices and minds that cannot be accessed or included to help shape and advance all of our futures here in Alaska.

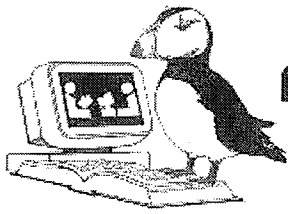
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Medicine Crow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Elizabeth Medicine Crow *Tlingit/Haida*
Vice President, First Alaskans
Director, Alaska Native Policy Center

Library,
Tribal
And
Community
Organizations





ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

March 5, 2010

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

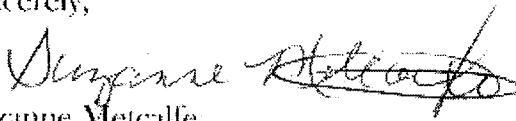
Dear Mrs. Thibodeau:

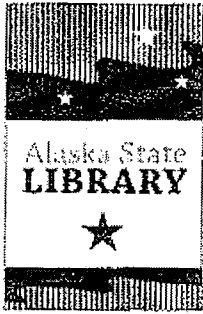
The Alaska Association of School Librarians support the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant, to be submitted by the Alaska State Library. We are an organization comprised of school librarians and realize that within our state we are very fortunate to have true broadband capabilities in most of our school libraries. We also recognize that this is not true for our public library counterparts and are encouraged that you are working to close that gap.

It is in the interests of our patrons, the students of our state, that we have continuous access to broadband. All too often, due to the depressed economies of our local communities, students leave the school day and have no hope of connectivity in their non-school hours. This places our students at a disadvantage. The Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal will provide for broadband connectivity, IT support for that technology, video conferencing capabilities, and equipment necessary to allow our students to learn well beyond their school day.

We at the Alaska Association of School Librarians applaud your and support your proposal.

Sincerely,


Suzanne Metcalfe
AkASL President



Networking Alaska Public Libraries:

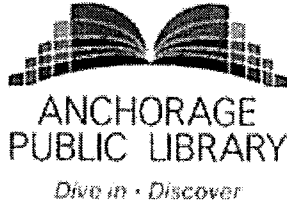
Statement of Support from Alaska Public Libraries

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.

<u>Lucy EKamrak</u>	<u>Library Aide</u>	<u>AKiachak</u>
Name	Title	Library



3600 Denali Street
Anchorage, AK 99503
Telephone (907) 343-2975
Fax (907) 343-2930
www.anchoragelibrary.org

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

March 2, 2010

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Anchorage Public Library is pleased to partner in the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library. Affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are essential to our library's core services: education, information and technology.

As citizens increasingly connect to one another and to the services and resources they need for their daily needs via the Internet, the library's technology service role has grown exponentially. Through this partnership we will have the potential to not only meet this demand but we will also be able to offer new opportunities to our community—job seekers, homeschoolers, seniors, new citizens and others.

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

Sincerely,

Karen Keller
Library Director

Municipality Of Anchorage



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

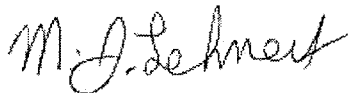
Dear Mrs. Thibodeau:

The Aniak Public Library would like to extend its support for the Alaska State Library Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant. Here in Aniak we are encouraged to think that you would seize the opportunity to improve our level of IT support and offer video conferencing in our local community.

The Aniak Public Library is run by one part-time individual and a very small budget to support all of our efforts. Our level of connectivity does not qualify as broadband, and we are a part of the underserved rural population that this NTIA is hoping to reach. If you are successful we will be able to improve the aging equipment we currently use, and will be able to have assistance with the IT issues that prove worrisome and hindering.

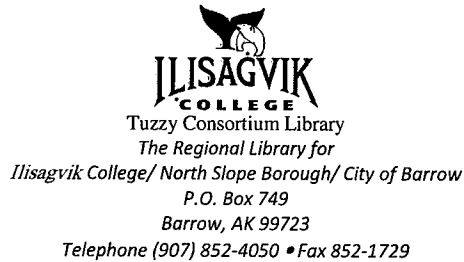
Our population in Aniak is approximately 500 individuals, primarily made up of Yup'ik Eskimos and Tanaina Athabascans. Subsistence continues to be a primary way of life in our community. As a result, we lack the financial support necessary to keep our library up to date and connected to the rest of the nation, and yet our population deserves no less. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf and we look forward to participation in this effort once this support has been awarded.

Sincerely,



Michael Lehnert, Director
Aniak Public Library
270 Riverfront Drive
Aniak, Alaska 99557





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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Tuzzy Consortium Library is pleased to support 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 critical to the services we provide. The Tuzzy Consortium Library's goal is to be able to provide the community with an adequate connection that allows us to use the internet in a manner consistent with today's technologies. At the same time as our broadband capabilities are increasing, we sincerely hope that we will see a decrease in the price we pay for internet services which are currently some of the highest priced in the country.

Many of the services that are taken for granted elsewhere are not available to us. We cannot access streaming audio or video services. They go into a buffering mode for one minute for every 5 to 10 seconds of delivered sound or video. Sometimes they simply disconnect attempts to access them as our connection is deemed too slow for the type of service they offer. Our State Legislature provides steaming audio of all committee and budget hearings each year. We cannot access those.

We pay \$32,000 per year for a 512 kbps connection. When we are busy, an individual is lucky to get even 4 kbps. It takes hours to download programs and services that you might expect to get in a few minutes. I have tried teaching classes over the internet to a student in one of our remote villages. While she can hear my voice, she isn't able to see what I'm doing on her computer screen.

There is an urgent need for increased internet infrastructure in rural Alaska. With your assistance, the establishment of a high-speed internet connection will greatly improve the life quality and educational and informational services that this largely underserved corner of the State needs.

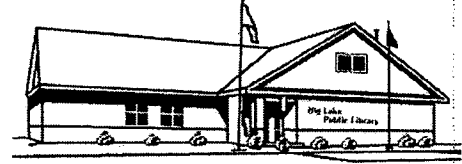
Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. I look forward to working with the State Library on this important project. Please feel free to contact me should the need arise.

Sincerely,

David Ongley
Director



Big Lake Public Library
PO Box 520829
Big Lake, AK 99652
Phone: (907) 892-6475 Fax: (907) 892-6546
<http://www.matsulibraries.org>



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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Big Lake Public Library is delighted 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. Our mission states that "The libraries within the Matanuska-Susitna Library Network (MSLN) support the educational, civic and cultural activities of their communities, as well as the intellectual, creative and inspirational endeavors of the individual. MSLN combines technology and quality services to enrich the lives of those within the community, strengthening the MSLN as a whole". This grant proposal is consistent with our vision and it achieves our goals.

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 "Jo Cassidy".

Jo Cassidy
Big Lake Library, Librarian

Cantwell Community Library
PO Box 68
Cantwell, Alaska 99729]
March 8, 2010

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

Dear Ms.Thibodeau:

Cantwell Community Library is pleased to be an active partner in the "Networking Alaska Public Libraries" grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

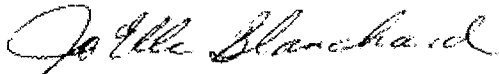
The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are important elements to the realization of our mission. The Cantwell Community Library's mission is to provide materials which support the curriculum of the school and satisfy the informational and recreational reading needs of the community through the selection, acquisition, organization and preservation of the library materials. This is done by a. supplying sources of information in all fields of knowledge; b. Encouraging individuals in the use of library materials, computer usage, at all ages; c. Keeping information current; d. Meeting the basic informational needs of the community; e. Selecting materials of the highest quality and without prejudice; f. Serving all residents of the community, with service being neither denied or abridged because of religious, racial, social, economic, or political status; g. Reviewing and revising the goals of this Mission Statement to ensure that it continually satisfies the needs of the community.

This project will provide needed internet service that has faster internet connection for patrons participating in on-line training.

-2-

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

Sincerely,



JoElla Blanchard
Library Director
Cantwell Community Library

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

2 March 2010

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Chiniak Public Library (Kodiak Island) wholeheartedly supports the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals and the opportunities it embodies, would be a great benefit to our library and community. People want to be connected to the world's information, and take advantage of the enormous educational opportunities available through this modern media.

We received our first modern computer through a Gates Foundation Grant a number of years ago. Since that time we have struggled with technology – barely keeping pace.

After we got that first computer, we got on a satellite system to connect it to the outside world. We got it all working, it lasted about a year, and now that computer just went to micro-chip heaven, the satellite service changed, and we are struggling again.

We are a small isolated community. Our school closed several years ago due to lack of students. When the school was open, they had all the modern technology, support and communications resources to serve the community and students.

At the Public Library, we tried to fill the gap, but we fall well short of what the school did with ease. If your initiative is successful, we might stand a chance at restoring modern technology and communications service levels in our community.

Thank You.

Sincerely,



John Miller, Director Chiniak Public Library
Box 5610 Chiniak Alaska 99615
(907) 654 3044



City of Coffman Cove

PO Box 18135

102 Denali

Coffman Cove, AK. 99918

Phone: (907) 329-2233 Fax: (907) 329-2212

Email: coffmancove@msn.com

March 7, 2010

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

Dear Linda:

The Coffman Cove Community Library would like to support the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant application by the Alaska State Library.

Our small community is impacted by the lack of high speed internet. Video conferencing would benefit our residents for training, conferences and meetings. I personally take classes from the University of Alaska Southeast and several times I have missed class due to the inability to log on and participate with Elluminate.

Our community is too small to attract a major provider with reasonable rates. We do not even have cell phone service. A dedicated line for the library is over \$2,000 a month through the telephone company.

The program proposed by the Alaska State Library will benefit our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Elaine Price'. The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Elaine Price

*Cooper Landing
Community Library
P.O. Box 517
Cooper Landing, Alaska 99572*

March 2, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

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

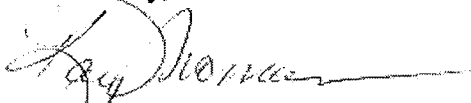
The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support essential elements to the realization of our mission. The mission of the Cooper Landing Community Library is

- To stimulate awareness of the self, the family, the community, the country, and the world;
- To nourish intellectual, aesthetic, creative and spiritual growth;
- To promote the use of books and other library materials for recreation and enjoyment;
- To support the democratic process by providing materials for the education and enlightenment of the community.

This project is consistent with the vision providing the resources for the community to go beyond teleconferencing and on to video conferencing. It would allow our library to become a focal point from which community organizations can access education, training, and other programs that support both youth and seniors.

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

Sincerely,



Kay Thomas
Director



Cordova Public Library

"We're not your grandmother's library – check us out!"

622 First Street, Cordova Alaska 99574 907.424.6667 cordovalibrary.org

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

February 26, 2010

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Cordova Public Library is pleased to be included in the collaboration of the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal of the Alaska State Library. We are encouraged that the State Library is undertaking this proposal in an effort to correct a great deficiency in the day to day operations of our public library system and many other libraries within the state of Alaska.

The goals of the proposal of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are vital elements to the fulfillment of the Cordova Public Library's mission. The Cordova Public Library's mandate is to provide public access to information by serving as a lifelong learning center, resources center, community center and gathering place.

At times, we find it difficult to complete our mission in rural Alaska with the lack of essential quality internet services. This project will address the needs of our community by enhancing internet access providing educational opportunities; job enhancement and growth; vocational training and medical reference services. Our municipality is committed to improving our community service through the public library and is preparing to construct a new multi-use facility that will diversify our local economy and strengthen the economic foundations of our community. Improved internet access is a vital part of this community project.

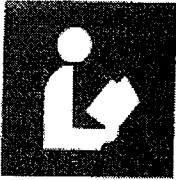
It is more than a quality of life issue in rural Alaska, improved internet service through affordable broadband access provides resources to smaller communities that otherwise might be expensive and/or impossible to obtain locally. In Cordova, in particular I know medical and health issues are of grave importance and improved access would make a huge difference to communicating with health providers; researching health alternatives and identifying and locating health specialists.

In order to see Alaska remain a competitive and viable state, we must stay connected and up to date with technology. Our public library system is one of the finest in the nation but support of this kind only strengthens our system of delivery to the underserved within our communities.

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute comments on this very important proposal.

Sincerely,

Cathy Sherman
Information Services Director



Craig Public Library
P.O. Box 769
Craig, Alaska 99921

Kimberly Baxter
Craig Public Library
POB 769
Craig, AK 99921

10 March 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Craig 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 services we are striving to provide to patrons as referenced by the Craig Public Library's technology plan. This project will address patron needs specific to the Craig Public Library. We experience periods of high internet use with long wait periods, and currently are unable to participate in training that requires a faster internet connection. This project addresses those concerns among others.

This project will strengthen our efforts to provide needed educational opportunities, training and internet access to the local community.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Baxter

Kimberly Baxter

*Delta Community Library
Box 229 2291 Deborah Street
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737*

March 7, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Delta 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 essential elements to the realization of our mission. For fifty years, providing current information to our community has been a top priority. Keeping up with changing technologies is always a challenge, and our patrons have embraced and supported many changes, especially in the past few years. Our library users have come to expect (and we work hard to provide) a high level of customer service. Both patrons and staff would welcome the updated equipment and training opportunities provided by this grant.

Many of our residents are frustrated by the slow and unreliable local dial up access offered in their area. For instance, it's impossible to participate in online classes that require a fast connection, or to watch a video clip an instructor has assigned. Although satellite Internet is available, it is cost prohibitive for most residents in our remote rural community. The Library Internet computers are used daily for everything from e-government to banking to business to school work. There is often a long wait to use one of our terminals. A frustrated patron is not a happy patron and that frustration can impact the library's reputation as a quality service provider. Adding more access in the library and providing area wide, reliable Internet will strengthen the library's connection to our community and make a good thing even better.

The Delta Community Library can contribute to the overall success of this initiative by first providing information and training to our staff and then offering instruction to our patrons, both formally and informally. Matching funds through the City of Delta Junction may also be available. I would be pleased to approach our City Council with a request for support during the budgeting process later this year.

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

Sincerely,

Joyce McCombs

Joyce McCombs, Director
Delta Community Library

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

March 4, 2010

Dear Mrs. Thibodeau:

The Dillingham Public Library supports the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant which will soon be submitted to the NTIA. Here at the library in Dillingham, we support both the school students and the community. We do not have the internet connectivity that our students are accustomed to at school. Our internet costs are high, and we rely on E-rate subsidies to help support what connectivity we do have. We are encouraged by your grant proposal and what a positive impact it will have on our local community. In addition to increased bandwidth capabilities, it will provide for IT support to utilize that connectivity and assist in the establishment of new computers and video conferencing equipment.

Our library serves as the hub of our community and we look forward to any efforts that will help move us in the direction of being able to offer the connectivity and equipment that we are currently lacking. Videoconferencing capabilities will allow for training and communication that is not currently found here. Having the tech support to utilize this new technology will help to ensure that we are a successful partner in your grant application.

The Dillingham Public library is pleased to support your project and wish you the best of luck.

Sincerely,

Sonja Marx, Library Director
Dillingham Public Library
PO Box 870
306 D Street West
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

*Eagle Public Library
Eagle, Alaska*

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Eagle Public Library Association is pleased to be a supporter of 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. One of the goals of The Eagle Public Library is to provide the best possible library services we can to Eagle, Eagle Village and the surrounding area.

The project addresses the needs of our community. Because of slow internet speeds our patrons are often frustrated when trying to complete PFD forms, unemployment requirements and IRS applications among others. Our slow speed prevents our patrons from watching short video clips and other things they are unable to experience.

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

Sincerely,
Theresa Dean
Director...EPL



Fairbanks North Star Borough

1215 Cowles Street

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4313

Public Library

907-459-1020

February 25, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Libraries wholeheartedly support the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, as well as equipment and IT support, are critical issues here. Even though Fairbanks is our state's second largest city, broadband connectivity is unavailable to a large proportion of the borough's residents, many of whom live in cabins without running water and limited electricity.

Ours is a very active library system, and we are seeing a sharp increase in our patrons' demand for fast Internet connections for filing applications, taking occupational exams, and other governmental and job-related tasks. Because of the declining economic situation, the library also is being used more heavily for do-it-yourself information for home improvement, health care, car repair, and many other tasks that residents are trying to handle less expensively. Even though many borough residents rely on the library for the Internet connectivity, presently our library's system hits its maximum bandwidth rate shortly after noon, and the system slows down drastically until around 7 PM, with connections regularly being lost due to the slow throughput rate.

Clearly, better broadband access is desperately needed here. It will soon be needed even more, as the demand for video-conferencing capabilities continues to become mandatory for remote job interviews, online class instructions and participation, etc. Video-conferencing equipment is currently unavailable in our library, and the equipment offered in the Alaska State Library's Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal would allow us to offer this critically important service.

The Alaska State Library's Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal will help address these concerns, and I hope you will rely on my support of this initiative. Thanks for your role in moving this forward. Please do everything in your power to further it, and call on me if I can be of assistance in promoting it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Hill".

Greg Hill, Director
FNSB Library Services

.....
Charles Evans Community Library, Galena Alaska 99741

March 03, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Charles Evans Community Library supports and hopes to be an active participant in the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education opportunities, awareness training, equipment and IT support are important elements to the realization of our mission. The Charles Evans Community Library's mission is to serve all while elevating literacy. The library endorses life long learning while encouraging the pursuit of information, inspiration and imagination. The goals of the Charles Evans Community Library are to develop a collection of books and technologies that meets community needs and to promote and increase patron use.

This project will provide our patrons with access to faster internet that will allow them to have true freedom of information. Our little library is within a school and many patrons find our censored computers to be very frustrating to work with.

This project will help our library to continue to be a growing and thriving community resource for all patrons who want to feed the need to read and who long for the freedom of information but have no access to such.

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

Sincerely,



Alyson Esmailka
Director of Charles Evans Community Library

.....

*Copper Valley Community Library Association
P.O. Box 173
Glennallen, Alaska 99588*

March 9, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Copper Valley Community Library is pleased to be a supporter of the *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal from the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, awareness training, equipment and IT support are crucial to the outlying communities. It is an exciting endeavor and one that will benefit our patrons / library immensely.

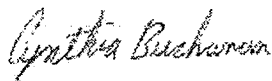
This project is consistent with our current plans for revisions at our library:

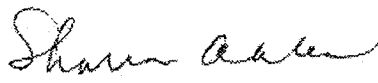
- It can help provide needed vocational training and job skills for our volunteer staff.
- It would help us update our intranet structure in order to relocate our computers to provide a safe environment for patrons of all ages.
- With the increased broadband access we would be able to offer live streaming/video clips for programs such as vocational training, college courses and current affairs.

Our community has a high unemployment rate and because of this our library is used as a public gathering and media center. It would benefit our patrons if we could provide an environment for online training in order to find a job or even keep the job they have, to improve their ability to check bank accounts, pay bills, do their taxes and even apply for their PFD.

Thank you for the opportunity to add our support. We look forward to working with the State Library on this critical project.

Sincerely,


Cynthia Buchanan
President


Sharron Ables
Treasurer

March 6, 2010

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

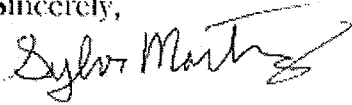
Dear Mrs. Thibodeau:

The Gustavus Public Library is happy to support the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal. While we have recently achieved connectivity that is adequate for our needs, it has come at a high price to our library. Our community depends heavily on our library and its connectivity, and we are encouraged by your efforts to improve that connectivity in any way. We are delighted to be included in your grant application as the recipient of video conferencing capabilities and equipment.

The Gustavus Public Library does have a small degree of instructional technology support, but one of our biggest challenges continues to be obtaining and networking the equipment necessary to satisfy our patron demands. We understand that your grant includes IT support for libraries and we are very pleased that you have had the foresight to include that essential component of the connectivity picture.

We are happy to support your project and look forward to hearing of a successful grant award in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Martinez
Gustavus Public Library Director

HAINES BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Haines Borough 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 and essential elements to the realization of our mission. The Haines Borough Public Library's mission is to be responsive to community needs...by providing access to materials, as well as providing access to information via new technologies.

The difficulty in fulfilling this part of our mission statement is with the unreliability of our internet access. The public is often frustrated with internet speed and connection when trying to fill out required forms for job and school applications, federal taxes and state PDFs. The technology and program staff members find it difficult to teach beginning classes such as *Internet Basics* while struggling with a slowing internet connection. In addition, it is near to impossible for students participating in distance and online education. Much of this content may be delivered via video clips or video conferencing and we lack the high quality internet access necessary for the success of these opportunities. And finally, as our usage increases, we have higher and higher overage charges each month. Our library budget is unable to sustain this cost.

Through this partnership, we will have the potential to offer new opportunities to the community at large through improved technology classes for job and school applications; computer help-on-demand; and basic and advanced internet searching. We would also be assured that we are a reliable location for those patrons and visitors needing access for online classes. Ensuring high quality internet access would also ensure that libraries continue to be on the forefront in offering their community members what they need in an ever-changing technological world.

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

Sincerely,

Patricia Brown
Director
Haines Borough Public Library

P.O. Box 1089 Haines, Alaska 99827 Ph: 907-766-2545 Fx: 907-766-2551



LIBRARY DIRECTOR
Patricia Brown

LIBRARY BOARD
Heather Lende, Chair
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Vice-Chair
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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.

Name

Title

Library

Library

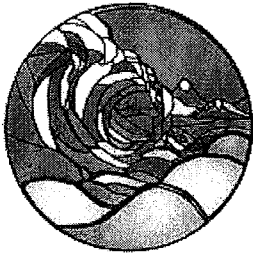
From: BUCK MARTIN [mailto:kabvuc12kabvuc@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 11:12 AM

To: Frederiksen, Patience A (EED)

Subject: YOUR Letters of Support by Tuesday, March 9

Hi patience, this library certainly supports the state library on this acquisition of better connections for library contacts.....but however you want us to put it, we do support it....this is William T Martin, now acting as HollisPublicLibrary, vice pres...on the library board.....we as you know are funded by grants and donations from the local patron group.....sincerely William 'buck' martin....
Hollis Public Library



Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

ph: 907-235-3180 • fax: 907-235-3136 • <http://library.ci.homer.ak.us>

March 8, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Homer Public Library is delighted to support 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 necessary in order "to support the information needs of the community by providing access to quality resources" as written in our library's mission statement. Homer, Alaska is an isolated, rural community located at the tip of the Kenai Peninsula. Our patrons greatly rely on online resources and are frustrated by our library's slow bandwidth.

Our limited broadband speed is holding us back from giving our patrons quality service. Members of the Homer community who use our library's public access computers, bring their personal laptops to the library to access our wireless service, or who try to access the library's online catalog from home, work, or school are often disappointed. Websites often "time out" and need to be refreshed and/or reloaded. We often have to give patrons more time to download their airline reservations or to fill out job applications. It's frustrating to try to watch streaming video and listen to audio because the clips buffer continuously, and often ultimately freeze before completion. Web training is very difficult for patrons and library staff because we simply don't have the bandwidth to support online courses. A patron wrote a complaint for our suggestion box stating that our "wireless is practically worthless. It is very difficult to do business here." Another patron wrote, "wi-fi was very slow today—not workable for research. Had to go elsewhere."

Limited broadband speed is keeping us from serving our patrons well. Through this partnership, we will have the potential to offer services that will help our users complete their school assignments and participate in online distance training, search for jobs and fill out job applications, and search our online databases and catalog from home, work, or school. Students, business people, and self-employed individuals will be able to use their laptops in our library. These are just a few examples of how our library will be better able to strengthen our community by offering online services that will help our patrons pursue their educations, job searches and training, and business and research opportunities.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. We look forward to working with the State Library on this important project which will allow libraries throughout Alaska to better serve their communities.

Sincerely,

Helen Hill, Director
Homer Public Library

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.

Libby Caffall-Davis, Head Librarian

HyderPublic Library
50 Main Street, Hyder, AK 99923
250 - 636 - 9148



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.

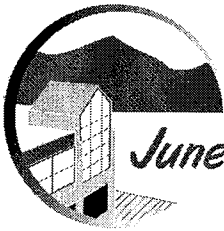
The Alaska State Library has the support of public libraries that would be interested in receiving additional bandwidth and/or video conferencing equipment and services through a BTOP grant. The signatures below are associated with public libraries and have indicated their interest in supporting the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

Betsy Hostetler
Name

Librarian
Title

Igiugig Tribal Library
Library



Juneau Public Libraries
juneau, alaska

March 8, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Juneau Public Libraries are happy to support the Alaska State Library's *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* grant proposal.

The goals of this project would provide important assistance to the Juneau Public Libraries in carrying out our mission to serve as *the open door to lifelong learning* for our community. By providing increased and affordable public broadband access, this project would enable us to extend and enhance the services that we already offer to greater numbers of people. Additional equipment and IT support would help us to improve online services at a time when both our equipment and personnel budgets have been severely curtailed due to budget cuts.

This project would enable us to greatly improve bandwidth access and to control ongoing cost increases. The Juneau Public Libraries consist of one main library and two branches which are each separated by ten miles from the main library. While we are able to receive fairly good broadband service through DSL at the main library, the branches must rely on cable modem access to the internet. As cable data use increases, the charge for the service increases. The current cost of connectivity is as much as our budget can bear, and budgets going forward have been severely curtailed. This patchwork arrangement causes us to pay more for the bandwidth than we might with a single service.

This project would improve access to interactive online services provided by the library. Data transfer speeds drop dramatically when the library opens due to increased demand. Staff training sessions which involve webinars or other online components must take place before the library opens if they are to function at all. We cannot provide public access to services such as online tutoring and online exam proctoring during open hours because slow bandwidth renders them essentially unusable. Although the library subscribes to a wide range of downloadable audio books and music online, these cannot be downloaded in the library because of restricted bandwidth. This limits use of these resources to those who can afford a computer and internet access at home.

This project would improve access to computers in the library by providing more computers. There are often lines of patrons waiting to use the library's computer workstations. At busy times, as many as twelve people may wait 30 minutes or more for an open seat. In order to more fairly apportion use, patrons are limited to four ½-hour sessions per day. Thirty minutes is an inadequate time to complete any but the simplest online searches and is often too little time to fill out forms requesting vital records or to complete applications like the permanent fund dividend application. If people know in advance that they have work that will take longer than thirty minutes to complete, the library offers one "research" computer for an hour's use. Unfortunately it is not always apparent to people at the beginning of a session how long tasks will take at the beginning, and they sometimes lose work when the automatic timing software ends a session at thirty minutes; as a result, there is a great deal of competition for the reference computers.

This project would improve access to basic connectivity by increasing available bandwidth. In order to offer an

alternative to long waits for fixed workstations, the library offers wireless service at all three branches; although, access becomes extremely slow when 20 or more people are using the wireless network, as is frequently the case. Access would also be improved if the project were to supply additional laptop computers. The library currently has only two laptops for checkout to those who do not have their own wireless enabled devices.

There is a well-documented trend in Alaska of young people leaving villages and smaller towns in search of economic opportunities in the population centers in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. Over the past two years, we have noticed increasing numbers of unemployed and under-employed young people using library computers as their primary, and often only, point of internet access for job applications, communication, and information seeking. This has been particularly evident at our Mendenhall Valley Library, which is located in the main residential area of the city. Many young people who are not in school spend a large part of the day in the library using the computers. If this project provides better bandwidth and more computers, the library could provide many online education and training services that cannot be offered with current equipment and connectivity.

This project would also assist nonprofit organizations in Juneau and improve citizen participation in local government by providing teleconferencing capability and the training needed to implement it. The Juneau Public Libraries offer meeting rooms at all three branches that are used by 80% of our population each year for community nonprofit meetings and local government meetings. A teleconferencing converter is available in one downtown branch meeting room, but we have often been asked if videoconferencing could also be made available. We are unable to do this under current bandwidth restrictions, and even web conferences using Skype can be patchy.

Videoconferencing equipment and the bandwidth to support it would not only provide contact with areas outside of Juneau, but could also facilitate community building activities within the borough. Juneau has a unique geography which stretches more than 60 miles in a narrow band along the coast. In order to participate in public meetings downtown, residents of some areas may need to drive 40 to 50 miles roundtrip under difficult winter weather conditions. If videoconferencing were to connect meetings at the main downtown library with the branch in the more populous Mendenhall Valley, more people could to participate actively in local government and in the organizational life of nonprofit volunteer groups that provide important services to the community.

The Juneau Public Libraries can contribute to the overall success of this project by providing technical assistance and advice to smaller libraries in Southeast Alaska, as we have done in other technology endeavors in the past. To the extent possible, we will match new equipment purchases and costs for increased bandwidth out of our local equipment and telecommunications budgets, although these have been reduced by about one third for FY10, FY11, and FY12.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity. The Juneau Public Libraries look forward to working with the State Library on this important project.

Sincerely,

Barbara G. Berg
Library Director

The Juneau Public Libraries are the open door to lifelong learning and exploration, providing shared resources and programs that entertain, enlighten and educate.

Kenai Community Library

A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN SERVICE SINCE 1949

163 MAIN STREET LOOP

KENAI, ALASKA 99611

(907) 283-4378

9 March 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Kenai Community Library is pleased to support 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 critical elements to the realization of our mission.

The mission of the Kenai Community Library is to provide a comfortable and friendly environment in which the public may:

- a. Have a reasonable expectation that they will leave the building with what they came for;
- b. Relax and read current materials;
- c. Receive knowledgeable assistance and answers to questions;
- d. Pursue opportunities for lifelong learning;
- e. Find professionally selected materials in all formats for personal enjoyment;
- f. Enjoy programs or performances;
- g. Have access to technological resources.

This project will provide our residents with the ability to take distance learning classes in pursuit of lifelong learning. Many programs offer classes that include video components that simply do not run on dial-up access speeds.

This project will greatly enhance our ability to provide our residents with not only access to government information, but the ability to complete official forms.

We have had as many as 600 people who have had to wait to use a computer during our busiest month. Slow access times increase the waits that people must endure in order to gain access to a machine.

The project will strengthen our community by providing uniformity of access. The simple frustration of long waits and slow downloads means that some residents just give up on obtaining the information they need, whether it is job applications, filing with the IRS or for the Alaska PFD, or simply viewing an educational, news, or entertainment piece.

The Kenai Community Library can contribute to the overall success of this initiative by providing training to users, marketing the availability of the resource and maintaining a budget to update and maintain the technology resources we offer to the public.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Joiner
Director



629 Dock Street
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
907-225-3331

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

3-8-10

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Ketchikan 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 purpose of the Ketchikan Public Library is to provide informational, educational, and recreational materials and services for the people of the City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. This is accomplished through development, maintenance, and promotion of materials, physical spaces, and programs responsive to the diverse interest and needs of our community.

The Library provides access to the Internet for staff and patrons. Access to most government documents, government services, and other digital information is only available on the Internet. IRS forms, Alaska Permanent Fund forms, INS information, all State of Alaska information and much more is primarily accessed through the Internet. This winter when the Job service computers went down, everyone who needed to access the DOL for job seeking or unemployment filing, was directed to the Ketchikan Public Library. We have only four terminals with a one hour limit and two terminals with a fifteen minute limit. We extended our two fifteen minute terminals to half an hour but it was still insufficient.

This project will greatly enhance our ability to serve our community by cutting down on long waits for internet service, our library users' inability to participate in training that requires a fast internet connection and the problems of patrons trying to watch a video thereby slowing down the whole library's Internet while the circulation staff needs to serve patrons wanting to check out books and other materials.

The project will strengthen our community by providing much greater Internet capacity for Ketchikan. Currently Internet training is an exercise in frustration. We do webinars and webex training BUT it is frustrating for both the presenter and the students to have to patiently wait for the page to load or catch up and many is the time we have had to explain, "We are on an island off the coast of North America. Internet is slow here. Please be patient."

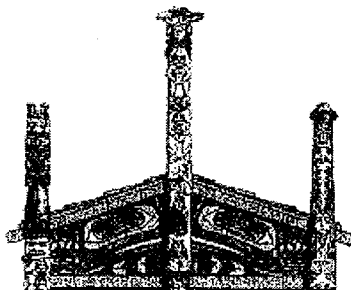
One of Ketchikan's challenges is our tourist industry which brings over 800,000 visitors each year during the summer months. We provide limited Internet access for visitors

who, while appreciative, are often very very frustrated by slower Internet speeds than they are used to in the lower 48. At least weekly we have someone in tears because their time ran out before their message was sent. They just don't understand that they can't wait until the last minute to press the send button.

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

Sincerely,

Judith L. McQuerry,
Library Director



Ketchikan Indian Community

Deputy Director's Office

Cultural Heritage & Academic Services

2960 Tongass Avenue – Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone (907) 228-5176 Fax (907) 228-5190

March 8, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau,

Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) 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 any library but especially a public library where summer traffic during the tourism season slows internet speed for everyone. KIC is an integral part of this Community and to that end we support the proposed grant efforts of the State Library.

Thank you for offering this funding opportunity and we hope the best for your organization's success.

Sincerely,

Victoria Canul Dunne
Deputy Tribal Education Director

cc: Judith McQuerry, KPL





A. Holmes Johnson Memorial Library
319 Lower Mill Bay Road
Kodiak AK 99615
907-486-8686
Fax 907-386-8681

March 8, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

As director of the A. Holmes Johnson Memorial Library in Kodiak, I wish to express our support of the Alaska State Library's "Networking Alaska Public Libraries" grant proposal.

The mission of our library is to provide "informational, recreational, educational and cultural resources to support the well-being of the Kodiak community." The goals set forth in the grant proposal of providing broadband access, equipment, education, training and technical support will contribute to the fulfillment of our mission. We are one of the few libraries in Alaska that meet the minimum standard speed for basic broadband Internet. However, we lack the equipment to take full advantage of our broadband connection. Our public Internet computers are old and outdated, and we lack any type of video conferencing equipment. With such equipment, we could offer our community job training, interactive college and adult education classes, and homework assistance. Although our library is a city facility, we serve the entire borough of Kodiak. With video conferencing equipment, we could provide interactive training and support for staff at the four village libraries located throughout the borough. Three of these libraries are off the road system and only accessible by plane or boat, so the ability to connect with these libraries in order to provide better service to the entire island of Kodiak would be a wonderful tool in achieving our mission to the community.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to participate in this project. I believe it will provide essential services for Alaskan libraries and the public that they serve.

Sincerely,

Joseph D'Elia,
Library Director

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Lake Minchumina Community Library is pleased to support 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. The Lake Minchumina Community Library's mission is provide reliable resources to all segments of our community. The internet is the number one resource used at our library; it is important that we are able to provide reliable access. A stable fast connection will provide professional development, research opportunities, educational growth, recreational enjoyment and more importantly current information that is not readily available otherwise. The project addresses the need of our community for a faster internet connection; our connection can be exceptionally slow, .2 Mbps at times. This makes downloading essential updates (Windows or Norton Antivirus) for our patron computers extremely long. Patrons easily become frustrated when they have to wait such long periods of time to view websites or documents. If the connection takes too long to pull up a website patrons often get a web page cannot be displayed window; this is especially frustrating when they're in the middle of filing out important applications such as their Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend or filing Federal Income Taxes. It also makes it frustrating for the patron waiting their turn to use the computer; we have two computers. Our Librarian and volunteers could benefit from participating in online training if a faster internet connection was available. Our community as a whole really depends on the Library for internet; it is our ONLY public internet provider.

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

Sincerely,

Shawna Hytry
Library Director

March 8, 2010

Linda Thibodeau, State Librarian

Alaska State Library

344 W. Third Ave., Suite 125

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Metlakatla Centennial Library is pleased to support 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 Metlakatla Centennial Library's goal is to bring many more opportunities to the community that the community itself cannot provide. The community has an 80% unemployment rate and that is why networking would benefit us greatly.

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

Sincerely,

Angela Russell

Library of the Metlakatla Centennial Library



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.

Deanna Thomas

Name

Director

Title

Moose Pass Public

Library

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

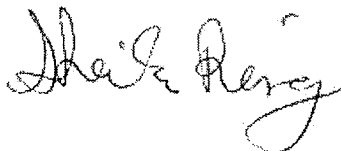
March 4, 2010

Dear Mrs. Thibodeau:

The Martin Mosen Regional Library and the Naknek Branch Library support the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant which will bring our underserved libraries into the 21st century by providing true broadband connectivity to our rural communities. We are very excited to have the opportunity to improve the connectivity and equipment that we can offer our patrons. Our library system has seen a huge demand in recent years for broadband connectivity, particularly in the summer months when our community population swells, due to the commercial fishing industry. We have been unable to keep pace with the demands of our patrons and struggle with the technical support required to keep even our modest connection up and running.

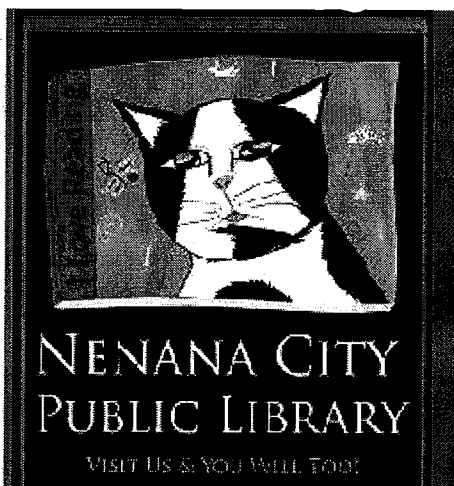
We are excited to be listed as the recipients of services, training, connectivity, and support in your grant proposal. A successful grant will mean improved service to the community that we serve, and we appreciate your efforts.

Sincerely,



Sheila Ring
Library System Director

Martin Mosen Regional Library
201 W. 3rd Street
Naknek, Alaska 99564



March 8, 2010

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

Dear Mrs. Thibodeau:

The Nenana Public Library is a strong supporter of the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

It is our mission to provide access to information in a variety of media. The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, training/education, equipment and Tech support are absolutely essential to fulfilling our mission.

Nenana is a small community, many of our members must look outside of Nenana in order to find employment. The only way for many community members to find work outside of our small community is through the internet. We are an economically disadvantaged community many members do not have access to transportation that makes the internet even more important to our patrons.

We are in great need of educational opportunities that can help people find jobs. We do not have a University or other higher education in our community, our patrons rely on the library to help them educate themselves, learn new skills, and bring them to market. We have many patrons that are asking if they can use the library for online courses we tell them that they can; but our internet is slow and not always reliable. Many of these patrons give up on the idea all together because we can't give them any kind of guarantee.

Our village is economically strapped, the native council laid off most of there employees and things don't look good economically here in Nenana. There are at 50% of our community members that are unemployed and that figure is growing. Many of our members come to the library to apply for government services and look for work. Most of the patrons that come for these internet services need a library staff member to help them through the process. People depend on library internet access to survive in todays

technological world. Our patrons also depend on the library to train and educate them so that they can survive in this online world.

The Nenana Public Library can provide training opportunities with grant support. We are willing to provide some match towards educational support and high speed internet access.

Our village of Nenana, Anderson and the communities off the highway need more opportunities for training so that they can find jobs. Rural Alaskans are disadvantaged because of their location and this can be a poverty trap for many. We here at the library as well as concerned community members want to solve this problem and with your help we can move forward towards meeting this goal.

Thank you for your time and support,

Darcia Grace
Nenana City Librarian

Nenana Public Library
P.O. Box 40
Nenana, AK 99760



NINILCHIK COMMUNITY LIBRARY
PO BOX 39165
NINILCHIK, AK 99639

March 8, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

Ninilchik Community Library supports the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal of the Alaska State Library.

The proposal's goals of providing affordable public broadband access, education, equipment and IT support are important elements in helping our library realize Ninilchik Community Library's goal of helping provide our community with more tools to help those trying to find work and working on continuing education.

People use the library public computers to search for jobs, apply for jobs, apply for their PFD, do their income taxes, take tests for their GED, and apply for business licenses. If we had faster internet connections we could possibly offer some on-line training courses.

We look forward to working with the State Library on this important project.

Sincerely,


Jackie Bear
Library Director

Kegoayah Kozga Library

Marguerite La Riviere, Director

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


Dear Mrs. Thibodeau:

The Kegoayah Kozga Library would like to take this opportunity to express support for the Alaska State Library Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant.

The Kegoayah Kozga Library is rich as a repository of the history of our local cultures. We would love to have the opportunity to share some of that richness with the rest of the world, and yet we struggle with adequate internet connectivity. We are hopeful that your grant will be successful and we will be able to improve that connectivity, have access to IT support, and also upgrade ageing equipment to that which will allow for videoconferencing between our local villages and beyond.

Thank you for your work on the Networking Alaska Public Libraries grant proposal. We look forward to working with you in the future to improve our library and our library service.

Sincerely,



Marguerite LaRiviere, Director
Kegoayah Kozga Library

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

March 12, 2010

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

The Ouzinkie Library/Media Center 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 Library in Ouzinkie is our only source of internet for patrons beyond one public computer at the areas Native Corporation, therefore we strive to bring internet access to the needed population in our area. This service is the largest draw for the patrons, and without it the library would shrink in usage/need in Ouzinkie.

This project will help this library realize new opportunities for archive growth of pictures, articles, oral histories, and a stable time line of the life happening in the city of Ouzinkie. As the librarian I would be able to offer so much more usage and activities with a more reliable internet package and training for its use and upkeep so to speak.

Actions like internet classes and VTC conferences would be able to address trainings and job progression issues that we must send persons out of area to attain. This grant proposal will strength this community for its future moving persons beyond physical labor to excellent office workers and grant writers and other reasonable positions that can be better learned in using internet trainings.

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

Sincerely,

Melodi D. Anderson
Librarian/Education

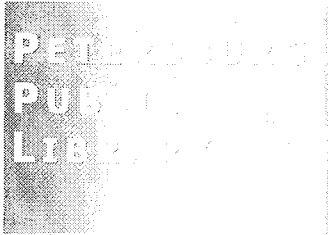
March 11, 2010

To whom it may concern,

This is a letter of support for the Department of Commerce BTOP grant for the Alaska State Library from the Palmer Public Library for better band width. We need faster internet for our patrons for their educational classes. Some classes are interactive and sometimes they cannot finish because some of the content freezes up or will not load at all. We also proctor tests from different colleges around the U.S. Periodically these tests have to be printed off because the student is unable to download the files on our current system due to the lack of band width. It would be beneficial for our staff and especially the people in our community who are taking distance/online classes or working on some project faster internet speed. A greater band width would allow us to serve more patrons as we often have a long waiting line for internet use. Thank you for your consideration.

Jeanne Novosad
Acting Director
Palmer Public Library
655 S Valley Way
Palmer Alaska 99645
907-745-4690

Thursday March 9, 2010



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Petersburg, Alaska
99833

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Track our progress
towards a
new library at
psglib.wordpress.com

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

Dear Ms. Thibodeau:

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

The Petersburg Public Library's mission is to "connect you to the world of ideas". Our top priority is keeping our library relevant to the community and responsive to specific needs as they arise. Community involvement drives the progress of the library. The library is governed by a seven member elected board that sets the policies and plans for the future of the library. There is a high level of participation from the community in the library.

The *Networking Alaska Public Libraries* 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 and is consistent with the vision of board and staff for our library. It will provide needed educational opportunities, vocational training and job skills access to our remote island community. This project will greatly enhance our ability to meet pressing community needs and, in turn strengthen our community.

Sincerely,

Taralee Alcock, Director
Petersburg Public Library