



RESOLUTION 19-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA FOR THE ALASKA ONLINE WITH LIBRARIES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Alaska Online With Libraries (OWL) program began providing rural Alaska libraries with federally funded high speed internet access, video conferencing capabilities, and information technology training in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska began funding the program in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the program serves 96 community libraries across the state, including in the Aleutians East Borough communities of Sand Point and Cold Bay; and

WHEREAS, the program is vital for rural Alaska residents who do not have access to affordable residential internet service and rely on the high speed internet at their local library to keep them connected; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed FY20 budget proposes defunding the Alaska OWL program in its entirety; and

WHEREAS, defunding the program may result in a significant and unsustainable cost shift to rural communities that rely on the services provided by the program, and will likely eliminate the program in many communities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly supports full funding from the State of Alaska for the Alaska Online With Libraries program.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 11 day of April, 2019.

Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tina Anderson, Clerk