



Alaska Legislature Update

March 26, 2026

Getting to know Pacific Dataport...

Pacific Dataport, Inc. (PDI) is a global satellite and broadband solutions provider delivering resilient, high-performance connectivity in remote and infrastructure-limited environments. Headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska, PDI, a telecommunications company, leverages low Earth orbit (LEO) and geostationary (GEO) satellite systems, including Starlink and OneWeb, to provide enterprise network management, scalable capacity, and worldwide connectivity services. PDI enables government, enterprise, and critical industries to maintain reliable communications anywhere in the world.

OneWeb (today, LEO)
Starlink (today, LEO)
Viasat 3 (<1 year, GEO)
Amazon (<2 years, LEO)
Meridian (<2 years, LEO)

STARLINK



MERIDIAN



BEAD Update: What Legislators Need to Know

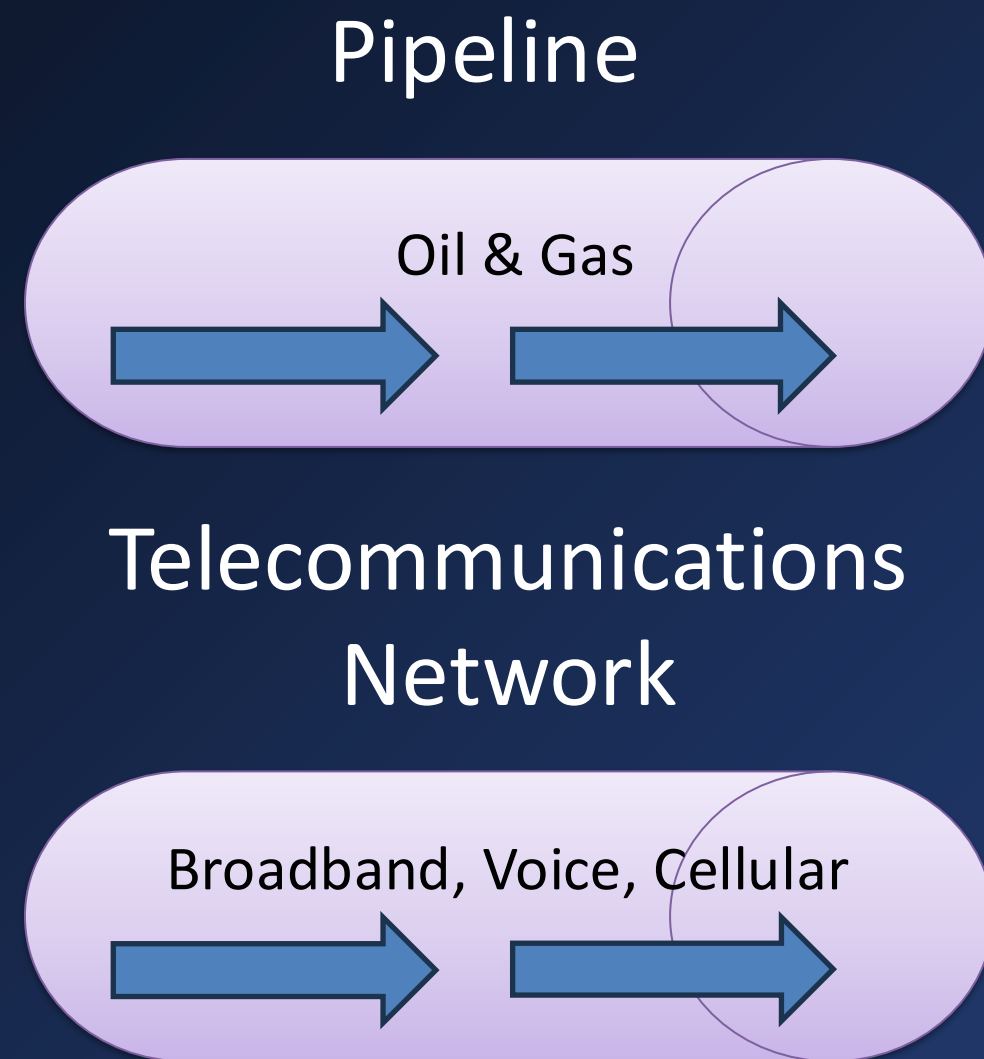
House Bill 363 was passed in 2022 by the Alaska Legislature, which created the Alaska Broadband Office.

- This is a neutral, statewide policy briefing— not an industry position
- Alaska is deploying ~\$1B in broadband funding with long-term implications
- Decisions being made now will shape telecom for decades – in Alaska and the U.S.
- Legislative awareness and engagement have been limited to date
- Goal: ensure Alaskans receive sustainable, affordable, future-proof service

Key Issues with BEAD Process

- Inconsistencies in application review and decision-making process
- Broadband Service Location (BSL) data is inaccurate (e.g., non-existent or abandoned structures like Adak)
- No meaningful legislative oversight during program execution (SBAB made zero contributions or recommendations)
- Significant downstream impacts on voice networks and healthcare connectivity
- State lacks telecom subject-matter expertise and regulatory authority alignment

Regulatory & Policy Gaps



- Alaska statutes governing telecom are outdated and misaligned with modern networks
- Current framework still assumes copper-based telephone exchange systems
- Transition underway to broadband-based VoIP and IP networks
- Regulatory structures (RCA) have not adapted to technological change
- Need to modernize statutes to reflect current and future network realities
- At the federal level, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is being reviewed for updating

Strategic Risks & Market Realities

- BEAD decisions did not adequately account for sustainability
- Emerging LEO satellite competition (Starlink LEO today; Amazon LEO within ~24 months)
- Risk of stranded or underutilized infrastructure investments
- Lack of economic analysis in funding allocations and network planning
- Limited middle-mile capacity forces ISPs to rely on multiple upstream providers, increasing costs

Recommendations & Path Forward

- Establish a full-time telecommunications office within DCCED
- Ensure the State of Alaska has a clear voice in federal telecom policy and funding decisions
- Modernize RCA statutes: shift from copper/legacy definitions to broadband/VoIP frameworks. Eliminate ETC approval oversight.
- Increase legislative oversight and accountability for BEAD outcomes
- Protect Alaskans' interests with transparent reporting, performance tracking, and sustainability planning

Thank you!

www.pacificdataport.com

Shawn Williams
VP of Gov. Affairs & Strategy
907.440.1185
swilliams@pacificdataport.com



Shawn Williams is the Vice President of Government Affairs and Strategy for Pacific Dataport in Anchorage. He's a 45-year resident of Alaska and former Assistant Commissioner of Commerce for the State of Alaska. Shawn is a member of the Karuk Tribe of California, earned a BA in Economics at University of Alaska, Anchorage and an Executive MBA in Strategic Leadership at Alaska Pacific University, and he is currently a PhD student studying Regulatory Economics and Public Health at University of Alaska, Fairbanks.