# 43rd Annual Alaska Resources Conference Connecting Alaska's Resources

November 17, 2022

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### Infrastructure Deployment in Rural Alaska Today

## GCI

#### Deployment/Operation of Networks Difficult in Rural Alaska

- Vast distances, rugged terrain, harsh climate, and tough permitting regime
- High cost of deployment and operations
- Small, dispersed communities

#### GCI/Other Carriers Made Substantial Progress over Past 15 Years with Federal/State Support

- Terrestrial broadband launched in 85 western Alaska communities
- Mobile wireless service deployed throughout rural Alaska

#### Modern Business Requires High Bandwidth

- Video-conferencing
- Cloud-based applications
- Business IOT (e.g. fleet/inventory management)
- Remote monitoring and troubleshooting
- Employee morale services



### Infrastructure Deployment in Rural Alaska Tomorrow

## GC

#### Engage in Long Term Planning Efforts

- GCI's Rural Connectivity Initiative sets long term strategy to meet future connectivity needs in rural Alaska
- Better planning of resources = more effective deployments, on time and on budget

#### Move Beyond Incremental or Short-term Service Improvements

- Wherever possible, deploy sustainable, transformational fiber solution that can last for a generation
- Where fiber not feasible, use latest microwave and satellite technology
- Build the solution around a sustainable business plan that generates revenue needed to operate, maintain, and upgrade the solution – no hothouse solutions that quickly fade in the real world

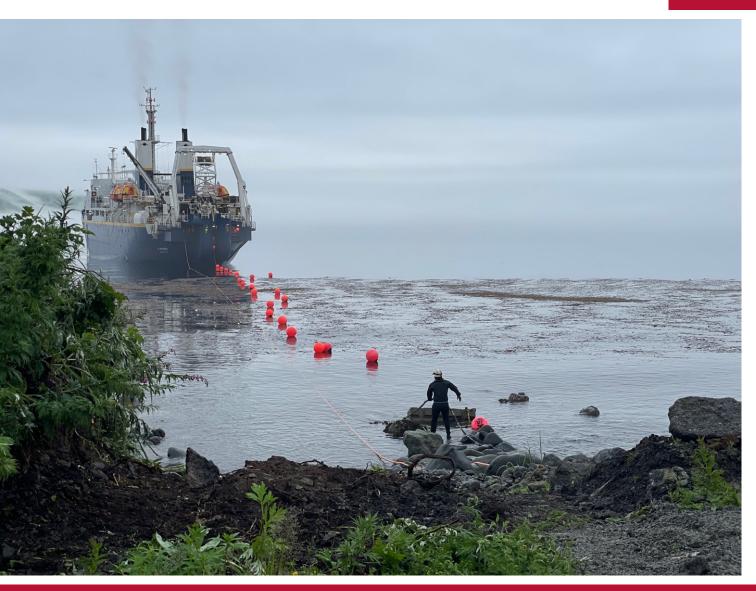
#### Leverage Once-in-a-Generation Funding Opportunity

- NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
- RUS ReConnect Program
- Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program (BEAD) Program



### Alaska United Aleutian Fiber Project





### **Aleutians Fiber project**

- 7,300 Alaskans served
- 6 communities
- 2 gig residential Internet
- Current service: satellite
- Turn-up in Unalaska next month!



### **AU-A2 Aleutians Extension Project**



### **Additional Initiatives**



#### Partnerships with Alaska Carriers to expand Impact

- Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative leverages GCI fiber to improve services in Dillingham and surrounding communities
- Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative leverages GCI fiber to improve services in Naknek/King Salmon

#### Wireless Upgrades

- Completed LTE upgrades in 2021 of Dillingham and surrounding villages
- 2023-24 upgrades of Unalaska and Naknek/King Salmon

#### Intelsat Partnership

- Multi-year, \$150MM deal that nearly quadruples GCI's available satellite capacity
- Helps meet expanded demand in satellite locations
- Bridge to terrestrial middle mile builds and reliable LEO/MEO services





# Thank you Billy Wailand wwailand@gci.com

Photo by Sean Mack