



broadband association of north dakota

BAND Together Newsletter

Executive Director Report: Connecting North Dakota - BAND's Role in a Thriving, Fiber-Fueled Economy

It has been a busy month of networking at BAND. We had several opportunities to connect with both industry and state leaders here in North Dakota.

Two events I attended were hosted by chambers of commerce. The first was the Policy Summit by the Greater North Dakota Chamber (GNDC), which brought together a range of perspectives to discuss the current state of business policy in North Dakota.

The second was a roundtable hosted by the Fargo/Moorhead/West Fargo Chamber, where Dakota Carrier Network (DCN) was invited to join Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak. She discussed federal policy and fielded tough questions from attendees.



A notable takeaway from both events was what *wasn't* discussed—broadband availability. While chambers across the country are still scrambling to connect their members to the global economy, ours can focus on other issues, confident that North Dakota broadband providers have already laid the groundwork.

BAND members—local companies serving North Dakota businesses—have been building fiber-optic networks for more than 20 years. Quietly, and consistently, they've made North Dakota the most fiber-connected state in the nation, helping businesses thrive in a global marketplace.

Seeing our energy, technology, agriculture, and tourism industries grow thanks to the networks we've built is part of what makes North Dakota's economy worth bragging about. We're proud to play our role.

BAND Member Spotlight: MLGC

MLGC Makes History for Rural North Dakota

MLGC achieved a major milestone with its designation as the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) in Leonard and Kindred, North Dakota, taking over this status from CenturyLink. Only one other rural broadband provider in the country has accomplished this feat.



Since 2002, MLGC has actively invested in the community by purchasing a small cable company to improve service. Over the past decade, MLGC has continuously upgraded its network to deliver 100% fiber-to-the-home, enabling multi-gigabit internet speeds. Today, the 800 residents of these communities enjoy reliable, high-speed internet. This area is adjacent to MLGC's longtime service area, serving 3,000 residents and businesses with its fiber network.

Why is this important for North Dakota? BAND Members like MLGC have invested time, effort, and resources to ensure rural North Dakota communities have access comparable to urban areas. Combining federal grants such as BIP, AARPA, ReConnect 3, along with private investments, has allowed rural communities south of Fargo to work and learn from home, access telemedicine, and see increased home values. These advancements greatly benefit the state's residents.

This initiative reflects MLGC's passion for serving its communities, guided by the recommendation of the North Dakota Public Service Commission. As CenturyLink prepares to officially exit Leonard as an internet service provider, MLGC's leadership ensures these communities will continue to receive quality broadband service.

Upcoming Events

October 16

DRN Annual Meeting (Ellendale, ND)

December 1-3

BAND Annual Meeting (Bismarck, ND)



Get in Touch & Stay Connected!

**Carissa Swenson,
Executive Director**

I am happy to provide information or speak at an event.
If you aren't already subscribed to this newsletter,
[please join our mailing list.](#)



Broadband Association of North Dakota (BAND) | PO Box 1144 | Mandan, ND 58554 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!