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COMPTEL Applauds FCC Chairman Wheeler for Opening Inquiry into Internet Traffic Exchange and Internet Congestion

WASHINGTON, DC – Today during a press conference, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler announced that he has directed Commission staff to conduct a broad inquiry into Internet traffic exchange and Internet congestion between ISPs and content providers.

The following statement can be attributed to Chip Pickering, CEO of COMPTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive communications industry:

"COMPTEL commends the Chairman for the initiation of an inquiry into the Internet traffic exchange practices of broadband Internet access providers and other networks and services. Consumers should receive the Internet services they pay for, and it is appropriate for the Commission to review the marketplace when that is not happening.

We believe it is critical to recognize, however, that access to an Open Internet is dependent on Internet traffic exchange practices. Thus, the Commission's review should be used to inform the Open Internet proceeding, and the Commission should address any harmful Internet traffic exchange practices in that proceeding."

About COMPTEL

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive communications service providers and their supplier partners. COMPTEL members are entrepreneurial companies driving technological innovation and creating economic growth through competitive voice, video, and data offerings and the development and deployment of next-generation, IP-based networks and services. COMPTEL advances its members' interests through trade shows, networking, education, and policy advocacy before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the courts. COMPTEL works to ensure that competitive communications providers can continue to offer lower prices, better service, and greater innovation to consumers. For more information, visit www.comptel.org.