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COMPTEL Participates in “Internet Slowdown” to Shine Light on Importance of Open Internet

WASHINGTON, D.C. – COMPTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive communications industry, is joining with thousands of other organizations and start-ups to call attention to the continued need for an open Internet.

As part of today’s [Internet Slowdown](#), COMPTEL will feature a “loading” symbol on its website – www.comptel.org – to call attention to the inevitable slow down that will occur if the open Internet is not preserved. The banner also serves as a call to action, encouraging web visitors to contact their lawmakers to express their concerns about constraining the ability of ISPs to restrict or otherwise interfere with users’ access to the Internet or certain web sites.

The Internet has been extremely successful because of its open nature, driving significant innovation and new means of commerce and communication. There are several issues at stake as regulators and lawmakers consider the open Internet – from exchange of Internet traffic and last mile access to discrimination against companies that cannot afford to pay to have their traffic travel in fast lanes on the service providers’ networks.

In [comments](#) on this issue, COMPTEL urged the FCC to use Title II to regulate the transmission component of broadband Internet access service and protect against discrimination and blocking, while simultaneously making clear that it will not tolerate anticompetitive practices in the exchange of Internet traffic, in order to preserve the Internet’s open nature.

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.