



1200 G Street, NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20005 • 202-296-6650 • www.comptel.org

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MEDIA CONTACT

Gail Norris
202-296-6650
gnorris@comptel.org

COMPTTEL Statement on FCC Technology Transitions Proposals

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler discussed proposals he is circulating with regard to protecting consumers, competition and public safety in the ongoing technological transitions in the communications industry.

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

“COMPTTEL commends the Chairman for his leadership and commitment to ensuring that public safety, competition and interconnection are preserved during the technology transitions. We applaud the Chairman for circulating an item to initiate a proceeding that considers critical issues impacting business, education, nonprofit and government markets, and residential consumers, as the industry – led by competitors embracing advanced IP technologies – continues its transition to next-generation services.

His actions today offer the clarity and certainty needed to ensure ongoing investment, new deployments and unrelenting innovation from competitors that will benefit business customers across the nation.

To foster robust competition in the business market, there must be sound policies that ensure wholesale access to the last mile. Any evolution in transmission technology does not change that fundamental fact.

As the Commission proceeds, it must ensure that incumbents do not exploit their transition to IP technologies as a way to diminish or eliminate the wholesale access to last-mile connections on which competitors rely to serve business customers.

In particular, it is important that the Commission adopt standards that, at a minimum, require equivalent wholesale access when incumbents seek to discontinue legacy services used by competitors to reach and provide innovative service to their customers.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Commission on these important issues, so businesses can continue to benefit from the services our members deliver.”

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 or follow us on Twitter @COMPTEL.