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**COMPTTEL Praises President Obama's Plan to
Protect Open Internet**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today President Obama shared his plans to protect the free and open Internet.

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

“COMPTTEL commends the President for his leadership on the need for strong, enforceable rules to protect the free and open Internet – rules that will prohibit Internet service providers from blocking access to or throttling content from websites that American consumers want to reach, and preserving interconnection norms and practices without tolls or other barriers to entry. This is the best means to safeguard competition and consumer choice over the Internet. We look forward to working with the FCC, stakeholders, the Administration and Congress to expeditiously develop and adopt legally sustainable rules.”

About COMPTTEL

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive communications service providers and their supplier partners. COMPTTEL 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. COMPTTEL advances its members' interests through trade shows, networking, education, and policy advocacy before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the courts. COMPTTEL 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 @COMPTTEL.