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**COMPTTEL Praises FCC Open Internet Action to
Protect Consumers, Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today the Federal Communications Commission voted on its order for protecting and promoting an Open Internet.

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

“The Commission’s historic decision today to promote and protect an open Internet is vital to consumers and companies of all sizes – particularly small businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs – that depend on the Internet to communicate, conduct business and serve their customers. Today’s action is a defeat for those companies that want to exert gatekeeper control over the Internet and a clear victory for individual choice, free expression, competition and the Internet-driven free market economy.

COMPTTEL commends the Commission for ensuring an open Internet by prohibiting blocking, throttling, paid prioritization and unreasonable discrimination that would prohibit consumers from obtaining the online content, applications and services of their choice. Our broad membership – which includes top Internet companies, over-the-top providers, Internet backbone operators, wireless and enterprise service providers – praise the Commission for its strong action and clear commitment to the innovation, investment and pro-growth policy for an open Internet.

We are pleased that the Commission followed the evidence in the record and determined that ISPs have threatened and can continue to threaten the open Internet at the interconnection points they control. By providing a complaint process, the Commission can now ensure that interconnection is not used to evade the open Internet protections, and it will be able to address cases of abuse that are harming or threaten to harm ISPs’ customers and the virtuous circle of innovation and investment.

*The Commission's decision to use legally sustainable authority, with the forbearance flexibility of the 1996 Act, is a sound and wise approach. We fully expect this light-touch policy framework will continue to promote investment in the entire Internet ecosystem. The Chairman, Commissioners Clyburn and Rosenworcel and their staffs, as well as the FCC staff who worked diligently to complete this proceeding in less than one year, should be proud that they have placed consumers in the best position to access a **truly open** Internet."*

About COMPTEL

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association advocating for competitive networks and competitive communications policy. 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.