



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Jeff Sharp, [202 285 7040](tel:2022857040), Jeff@themanitou.co

COMPTEL Statement on FCC Chairman Wheeler's Brookings Speech

WASHINGTON DC (June 26, 2015) -- This morning, Federal Communication Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler delivered a speech before the Brookings Institute where he discussed his vision for broadband and competition.

In response, Chip Pickering CEO of COMPTEL, released the following statement:

“It is encouraging to hear FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler’s desire to put the pedal to the metal on the new network and connection agenda. We applaud his commitment to competitive access, interconnection, consumer protection, public and national security.

“The risk to our networks is real. Networks are being degraded and abandoned without notice, while competition is denied and public safety is put on the back burner.

“In 2014, a unified FCC came together around a set of core values to guide the technology transition. This network compact has the support of both consumer and competitive network coalitions. We stand united in our support for Commission action to achieve a transition that upholds competition, safety and access for a better broadband future.

“COMPTEL strongly agrees with the Chairman's call for new networks. We embrace all measures to achieve broadband investment in new networks fixed and mobile -- licensed and unlicensed. Expediting deployments through accelerated access to poles, and critical infrastructure and streamlined permitting is needed. Video reform and new opportunities for new over the top entrants are welcome news.

“In short, we support the Chairman's broad agenda for broadband competition, innovation and investment. The second half of the Chairman's competition season starts now. Our companies are fiercely competing in the market and join the call to promote and protect competition.”

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About COMPTEL

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive networks. 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 @COMPTEL on Twitter.