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COMPTEL: Competition Policy Drives Broadband Investment, Future of Video

Leading Competitive Networks Association Files Reply Comments with FCC, Advocating Special Access Reform, Video Availability and Set Top Box Changes

WASHINGTON DC (September 30, 2015) – COMPTEL, the competitive networks association, filed reply comments with the Federal Communications Commission on the acceleration of wireline and wireless broadband networks in its Eleventh Broadband Progress Notice of Inquiry Proceeding.

In the filing, [which can be located here](#), COMPTEL strongly urges special access reform, including an end to anti-competitive lock up agreements that hold back deployment and investment by new network builders.

By debunking fear mongering claims about investment made by large incumbent providers, COMPTEL's filing details how special access reform holds the key to unlocking customers' ability to obtain more choice and better broadband service at affordable rates.

“Competition policies have been essential to laying the foundation for a broadband future, and wholesale access policies in particular have played a vital role in unlocking competitive investment in the business broadband market, which is critical to the overall economy,” reads the filing from COMPTEL's Angie Kronenberg and Karen Reidy. **“Ensuring reasonably priced access to wholesale inputs and interconnection on reasonable and nondiscriminatory terms is necessary to advance the core goals of Section 706 to promote competition and spur broadband investment.”**

In a nod to the future of competition, COMPTEL's filing illustrates how video issues are increasingly becoming an essential ingredient to fostering residential broadband competition, both in terms of access to video products, and the necessity of breaking open the cable set-top box market to innovation and competition. Recently, several major publications including the [New York Times](#) and the [USA Today](#) have editorialized in favor of set-top box changes to help consumers who pay an average of \$231 per year to rent set-top boxes from their cable company.

“Residential wireline broadband competition is intertwined with the availability of video programming, and the Commission must address the long-standing issues with the

availability of video programming at reasonable and non-discriminatory rates, terms, and conditions in order to promote broadband competition,” the filing states.

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About COMPTTEL:

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive networks. 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, [visitwww.comptel.org](http://www.comptel.org) or follow @COMPTTEL on Twitter.

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