



For Immediate Release

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INCOMPAS: Wheeler Action will Unlock the Box, Unleash Competition and Streaming Future

Ending Set Top Box Monopoly Will Drive Innovation and Lower Prices

WASHINGTON DC (January 27th, 2016) – In a [blog post today](#), Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler announced his intention to begin a process at the FCC that could finally bring an end to the cable monopoly of the set top box marketplace.

Last year, a [U.S. Senate report](#) found that consumers are paying an average of \$231 per year to lease set top boxes from the cable company, even though less expensive devices are available to purchase. Cable companies [responded](#) by raising the leasing prices for set top boxes in 2016.

Unlike the cable set top box, new competitive devices allow consumers the freedom to move seamlessly between traditional television channels and new over-the-top based content and apps.

In response to the announcement, Chip Pickering CEO of INCOMPAS, released the following statement:

“It’s time to unlock the set top box and let competition stream in. Chairman Tom Wheeler’s action will give consumers the power to choose their own device, access new content and save money.

“It’s a triple play that the cable companies will hate, but fans and creators of award winning streaming programming will love. We can’t truly realize the golden age of television while consumers are stuck watching TV on the set top box of the past.

“This is an issue of consumer freedom vs cable control. No consumer wants their streaming content blocked or barricaded by the cable company. You shouldn’t have to switch remotes to watch your favorite over-the-top shows. By ending monopoly control and breaking open the set top box market, Chairman Wheeler and the FCC have the power to present a free market solution for video devices that will bring both competition and innovation and more video choice to consumers. “

About INCOMPAS:

Formerly known as COMPTTEL, INCOMPAS is the leading trade association for the competitive networks. INCOMPAS represents communications and technology companies large and small, advocating for laws and policies that promote competition, innovation and economic development. Learn more at www.incompas.org.

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INCOMPAS is also a member of the [Consumer Video Choice Coalition](#) (CVCC) --

a coalition of industry, public interest and consumer organizations, who support pro consumer choice in access to television and video content. Members of the coalition include CCIA, INCOMPAS, Public Knowledge, Writers Guild of America, West, Ceton, SiliconDust, TiVo, Google, Hauppauge, and VIZIO.