



For Immediate Release

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## **Pickering/INCOMPAS: Open Internet Victory: Competition, Commerce and Cats**

Washington DC (June 14, 2016) – Today, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled in favor of the FCC’s Open Internet Order, a victory for the FCC, start-ups, small businesses and consumers.

**In response, Chip Pickering, CEO of INCOMPAS and a former Republican Member of Congress from Mississippi who introduced the very first net neutrality legislation during his time in Congress, released the following statement:**

“By upholding the FCC’s balanced, light-touch framework, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has validated bedrock foundations for Open Internet protections that Internet streamers, dreamers and start-ups depend on.

“This Open Internet victory will foster more competition, more commerce and more cats. These policies benefit the entire Internet ecosystem, ensuring continued economic growth and free and open social expression.

“As we have seen since Open Internet policies went into effect last year, investment and innovation are on the rise as strong, clear interconnection guidelines have incentivized free market negotiations. By removing the dark cloud of uncertainty created by a few large gatekeepers that sought to block, throttle and control Internet traffic, the FCC Order has enshrined the principles Internet founders envisioned.

“We commend the court and the FCC for years of thoughtful, diligent work. While the Internet has many champions and visionaries, history must make room for the names Tom Wheeler, Mignon Clyburn and Jessica Rosenworcel as well.”

### **About INCOMPAS:**

INCOMPAS, the Internet and competitive networks association, is the leading trade group advocating for competition policy across all networks. INCOMPAS represents Internet, 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](http://www.incompas.org) or follow us on Twitter: @INCOMPAS @ChipPickering