



For Immediate Release

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

Competition Pushed 5G Innovation, Competition will Drive 5G Deployment

WASHINGTON DC (June 20, 2016) – Today FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler delivered a major address on the build-out of 5G networks and announced plans to take the steps necessary to allocate spectrum for and ensure the connectivity of 5G infrastructure.

In response to the 5G speech, Chip Pickering, CEO of INCOMPAS, released the following statement:

“For the US to become the global leader in 5G, wireless backhaul will need to do what LeBron James did for the Cleveland Cavaliers and carry us to victory. Ending monopoly rents for this critical input service that have inflated prices and put competition on the bench is a critical first step for paving the way to rapid 5G deployment.

As Chairman Wheeler pointed out today, backhaul currently represents up to 30% of wireless network costs and with 5G, that could increase to 50% of the cost of to operate a wireless network. Without meaningful BDS reform, 5G will be delayed and in some markets, blocked. U.S. 5G leadership depends on BDS reform now.

“The FCC’s resolution of the long delayed Business Data Services proceeding will not only help 5G, it will bring affordability and choice to business customers, schools, hospitals and non-profit organizations. We want to thank Chairman Tom Wheeler for highlighting the critical role that competition and backhaul will play in 5G deployment, and we look forward to working with the entire FCC on solutions that encourage competition and innovation.

*For more on major wireless carriers support for the FCC's Business Data Service effort, [please click here](#).

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 or follow us on Twitter: @INCOMPAS @ChipPickering