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## **INCOMPAS to FCC: Favoring Broadband Monopolies Won't Build New Networks**

### **Association Challenges FCC's Anti-Competitive Turn on Tech Transitions and Lifeline**

WASHINGTON DC (November 15, 2017) – INCOMPAS, the internet and competitive networks association, is questioning the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) latest attempt to help broadband monopolies and hurt competition in their upcoming monthly meeting.

On Thursday, the FCC is set to cut the notification timeline for copper retirements in half, from 180 days to just 90 days, and propose making it more difficult for competitive companies to provide Lifeline service.

The association has [filed comments](#) with the FCC in the wireline proceeding.

**In advance of the FCC open meeting, Chip Pickering, CEO of INCOMPAS, released the following statement:**

"It's premature for the Commission to reduce competitors' notification period on existing network access when the barriers that significantly delay fiber deployment have not been addressed.

"Competitive broadband providers dragged the incumbent monopolies kicking and screaming into the future with Ethernet and fiber. Bipartisan policies that provide wholesale network access have encouraged network growth and unleashed investment giving consumers more choices and lower prices.

"The FCC says they support streamlining broadband deployment, but are punishing smaller network builders. Cutting competitors' transition period in half (from 180 days to 90 days) *before* the Commission takes action to remove barriers to deployment - like accelerating the pole attachment process and addressing rights of way issues – is clearly out of step. The FCC should adopt a competition first policy, and streamline deployment before doing favors that only benefit monopoly broadband players.

"Building competitive networks is hard, expensive and time consuming. But with an economy moving rapidly toward a streaming and cloud revolution, encouraging more companies and not just monopoly incumbents to build new networks of the future takes on even greater importance."

**On Lifeline, Pickering added:**

“Competition prevents government programs from becoming slush funds for sloths. We fear the FCC proposal to allow only facilities-based companies to offer Lifeline services will significantly reduce the number of companies providing critical Lifeline services for low-income, job-seeking Americans and children needing access to education services designed for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Consumers benefit from competition, and INCOMPAS plans to participate in the FCC’s rulemaking to advance this interest in the Lifeline program.”

**About INCOMPAS:**

INCOMPAS, the Internet and competitive networks association, is the leading trade group advocating for competition policy across all networks. INCOMPAS represents Internet, streaming, 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