



**For Immediate Release**

## **INCOMPAS Statement on FCC Broadband Deployment Report: Broadband Needs a Bullet Train to the Future**

WASHINGTON, DC (January 19, 2018) – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released their 2018 Broadband Deployment Report on Friday, highlighting local barriers to new network builders. In the report, the FCC also recommended maintaining the current fixed internet speed benchmark of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, even though both incumbent and competitive network builders have deployed faster speeds of a Gigabit and beyond.

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

“If we want to keep our economy chugging along, then we must put broadband networks and the internet on a bullet train to the future. Increasing the fixed broadband benchmark to one Gigabit would encourage greater competition, lower prices, and unleash investment.

“We thank Chairman Pai and the entire FCC for their continued focus on broadband deployment and we encourage them to be bold and strive for a better, faster broadband future. Eighty-nine percent of the nation remains tied to older, slower networks where monopolies and duopolies have blocked new competition. But in neighborhoods with three or more competitors, Gigabit speeds drive the market and families have faster speeds at lower prices. Competition is the answer, and the FCC should bring these benefits to all Americans with all deliberate speed.

“We support the Commission adopting policies that lower barriers for competitors, such as One Touch, Make Ready for pole attachments. The FCC should also clarify that it will not preempt any city or state that enables broadband competition in multi-tenant buildings, and it should open a rulemaking that makes clear that exclusive access arrangements are not permitted. Consumers living in condos or apartments have a right to competition too.”

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### **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