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Rep. Anna Eshoo Underscores Importance of Competition and Innovation at The INCOMPAS Show: Fall 2017

SAN FRANCISCO – Delivering the opening keynote session of [The INCOMPAS Show: Fall 2017 featuring the NEDAS Symposium](#), Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) emphasized how competition, fostered by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, has fueled the innovation that is now driving our economy and creating opportunities that were not even considered 20 years ago. But, she warned that actions now being taken in Washington, D.C., threaten to rollback these advances.

Rep. Eshoo expressed concern that the bipartisan Telecom Act, “a law of the U.S., is now being ignored, or to be more kind, I’d say it’s not fully appreciated.” Many efforts are being undertaken “to eliminate important safeguards that promote and protect competition,” Rep. Eshoo warned, citing actions at the Federal Communications Commission related to Net Neutrality, business data services and media consolidation. “Less competition does not result in innovation, nor is it a win for consumers.”

Representing California's 18th Congressional district, which includes Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area, Rep. Eshoo has witnessed first-hand how the investments in the Internet, networks and infrastructure has resulted in positive economic impacts – from job creation to the new platforms and technologies that enhance business and education.

A strong proponent of fostering deployment of new networks, Rep. Eshoo said, “We do not have 100 percent penetration in our country. [Access] is a must for us, it isn’t a luxury.” She noted that she has sponsored legislation that would encourage fiber builds in conjunction with construction of new federal roads, in an effort to speed and reduce the cost of network deployment, and eliminate many obstacles faced by the network builders. She discussed her support for one touch make ready and announced that like her Dig Once proposal, she will introduce legislation to speed competitive access to poles. “We need to understand that these are the bridges for the next century,” she added.

Cybersecurity is another issue on which Rep. Eshoo is currently focused. With hacking and data breaches having massive impacts on consumers, the government and the political system, Rep. Eshoo noted that she has introduced bipartisan legislation called The Promoting Good Cyber Hygiene Act together with Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN) in the House of Representatives and Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ed Markey (D-MA) in the Senate. “Congress has busied itself with focusing on what to do after [cyber breaches] happen,” she said. “What we need is prevention.” Rep. Eshoo added that she believes industry bears some responsibility and lauded INCOMPAS’ efforts to work with industry on this critical issue.

Rep. Eshoo has served in Congress since 1993. In 2011, she was elected to the role of Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology in 2011, becoming the first woman in the history of the subcommittee to serve in a leadership role. Rep. Eshoo also serves as a co-chair of the bipartisan,

bicameral Congressional Internet Caucus, with Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), and Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and John Thune (R-SD).

About INCOMPAS

INCOMPAS, the internet and competitive networks association, is the leading trade association 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 or follow us on Twitter [@INCOMPAS](https://twitter.com/INCOMPAS).