



For Immediate Release

## **INCOMPAS: AT&T Slaps Trump States with Price Hikes for Some BDS Services**

WASHINGTON DC (Tuesday, April 18, 2017) – Telecom giant AT&T quietly announced big price hikes on business broadband services for customers in several states late Friday. Small business customers that purchase intrastate BDS in Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin have been targeted by this price increase that far outpaces rate of inflation.

These latest price hikes by AT&T come as the Federal Communication Commissions (FCC) is poised to eliminate competition in the interstate business data services (BDS) market. That vote is scheduled for Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

“AT&T is lobbying the FCC to end competition laws, but still raising prices like a monopoly. AT&T’s latest broadband price hike hits small businesses in states won by President Trump the hardest, as it targets Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin.

“Sunshine went down and prices went up in AT&T’s bad Friday price attack on small businesses. This is yet another canary in the coal mine for the FCC’s business data service Order. Prices rise in monopoly markets, and should fall in competitive ones.

"If the business broadband market is indeed competitive -- as the FCC draft Order implies -- then why are prices going up for these BDS related services?"

"AT&T's oddly timed rate hike is what the US Small Business Administration Advocate warned of last week. If the FCC stays on course to eliminate competition in the broader business broadband market, prices will continue to skyrocket for an even greater number of businesses."

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\*\*NOTE: Sprint and Windstream filed the attached letter with the FCC on the topic last night

### **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