



**\*\*NOTE:** Chip Pickering and our pollster, Bryan Sanders are available today and Friday AM for phone interviews to discuss the results\*\*

For Immediate Release

## **Trump Voters Support Net Neutrality 3 to 1, Reject Cable Lobby Efforts to Control the Internet**

### **New Poll: Republicans Say the Internet Has Improved Under Current Open Internet Rules**

Washington DC (July 13, 2017) – Republicans and supporters of President Donald J. Trump are saying not so fast to a Washington-led effort to dramatically change open internet protections. By large margins, they disapprove of placing more control of the internet in the hands of large cable companies like Comcast and AT&T.

According to a new conservative poll released today by INCOMPAS (the internet and competitive networks association) and conducted by IMGE Insights (a leading Republican research firm) **backers of President Trump support the current net neutrality protections by a wide 3 to 1 margin.**

In fact, 70 percent of Trump voters said the internet has improved over the past two years under the current law.

“The findings show broad consensus that Republican and conservative voters favor open internet protections, are angry over the recent data privacy vote and do not want big cable companies controlling their access to conservative websites,” said Bryan Sanders who conducted the poll.

INCOMPAS released **key findings from the poll** today during an event at the National Press Club. A copy of the conservative poll’s findings is [HERE](#):

<http://www.incompas.org/files/IMGEInsights-Presentations-KeyFindings-1c.pdf>

The poll also examined conservatives’ views on issues critical to the open internet debate, including **paid prioritization, privacy** and the risk of Comcast and AT&T **favoring liberal content** they own – such as MSNBC – over conservative media online. The poll also found Trump voters support President Trump’s effort to block the **AT&T-Time Warner merger**.

“Conservatives don’t want cable companies controlling the internet and charging them more for streaming services and websites they love,” said Chip Pickering CEO of INCOMPAS.

“Republican leaders started the effort to protect internet freedom, and net neutrality is still a priority for our conservative base.”

During an event at the National Press Club today, a panel of Republican and industry leaders discussed what the poll’s findings mean for lawmakers, as well as the negative effect the FCC’s current proposal would have on main street business.

**Chip Pickering, INCOMPAS CEO and a former Republican Member of Congress** who introduced the first net neutrality legislation in Congress led the conversation:

"President Trump has articulated that competition is the answer in education, healthcare and insurance. At the heart of the open internet is a platform for competition and innovation. The current FCC proposal actually restrains competition and threatens to give control of the internet to large cable companies.

"The FCC has received 7 million comments. We’re seeing record levels of participation because an open internet is an American value, overwhelmingly supported by Republicans and all voters, that needs to be protected and preserved."

**Melanie Wyne, Senior Technology Policy Representative, National Association of Realtors,** spoke to the small business impact of net neutrality changes, and the poll findings:

“This is not just a Silicon Valley issue, it’s a main street business issue. The National Association of Realtors are concerned about net neutrality rules that would allow paid prioritization or fast lanes, and blocking of content on the web for small businesses who rely on the internet and social media more than ever before.”

**Henry Barbour, Republican strategist and RNC member,** spoke to net neutrality changes tipping the scales in favor of companies who own liberal media outlets like MSNBC, CNN and Huffington Post.

"As Republicans, if we take away control of the internet from voters and give it to companies like MSNBC and CNN that are giving Trump 92% negative coverage - we need our heads examined."

"I think internet freedom is an issue that transcends all political lines. I think this is an opportunity for the White House and Congress to show they're taking on issues that voters really care about."

**Jim Barnette, Former General Counsel for the US House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce,** addressed the impact the privacy vote has had on the politics of net neutrality.

“The privacy vote in Congress was very close, and sent a wake up call to Republicans who really heard about it from their constituents back home. Republicans have a choice - are they with consumers or are they with the big ISP's? It's a pretty clear line. And I think for the populist, Trump voters, it will be very important to them in 2018.”

**Andrew Shore, Former Chief of Staff for the House Republican Conference**, spoke to the poll's free market, business principles of net neutrality:

"I'm often confounded by Republicans who say the internet is the free market and we should let it flourish. The ISP's are not the free market...We need to right the scales of the years of government largess that these corporations have received, that small business don't receive."

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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