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COMPTEL Applauds Supreme Court Decision Affirming Cost-Based Pricing of Entrance Facilities for Interconnection

High Court’s Ruling Reverses 6th Circuit Decision in Talk America v. AT&T Michigan

WASHINGTON, D.C. – COMPTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive communications industry, today applauded the U.S. Supreme Court for its decision in the case of Talk America Inc. v. Michigan Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T Michigan. In reversing the 6th Circuit’s decision, the Supreme Court ruled that AT&T must lease entrance facilities used for interconnection purposes to other carriers at cost-based rates. These entrance facilities are the transmission facilities – typically wires or cables – that connect competitive providers’ networks with the incumbent LEC network for the mutual exchange of telecommunications traffic.

COMPTEL filed an amicus brief in this case in support of Talk America and the Michigan Public Service Commission.

The following statement can be attributed to Mary C. Albert, COMPTEL’s assistant general counsel:

“Today’s Supreme Court decision is a great victory for the competitive industry and upholds the rights of competitors granted by the Telecom Act of 1996. AT&T has litigated this entrance facilities issue in numerous jurisdictions. In affirming the statutory right of competitive carriers to obtain cost-based interconnection, this decision will provide much needed certainty for the future.”

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About COMPTEL
Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive communications service providers and their supplier partners. COMPTEL members are entrepreneurial companies driving technological innovation and creating economic growth through competitive voice, video, and data offerings and the development and deployment of next-generation, IP-based networks and services. COMPTEL advances its members’ interests through trade shows, networking, education, and policy advocacy before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the courts. COMPTEL works to ensure that competitive communications providers can continue to offer lower prices, better service, and greater innovation to consumers. For more information, visit www.comptel.org.