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COMPTEL Commends Michigan PSC for Confirming IP Interconnection Requirements

WASHINGTON, D.C. – COMPTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive communications industry, today commented on a decision released by the Michigan Public Service Commission (PSC) that addresses, in part, IP interconnection between Sprint and AT&T. Ruling in Sprint’s favor, the PSC reversed an arbitration panel decision relating to IP interconnection and other matters.

The following statement can be attributed to Angie Kronenberg, COMPTEL’s chief advocate and general counsel:

“COMPTEL applauds the Michigan PSC for its decision confirming that AT&T must provide Sprint IP interconnection for the transmission of telephone calls that AT&T provides to itself, affiliates or third parties pursuant to Section 251(c)(2) of the Act.

The FCC has held that Section 251 is technologically neutral and applies to traffic whether it is exchanged via TDM or IP and has confirmed that carriers must negotiate in good faith for IP interconnection. As the PSC found, there is no reason why states should wait for further action from the FCC. It is critical that states use their authority granted by Congress to address interconnection when parties cannot agree. The consumers served by competitors should not be asked to wait for the benefits of IP interconnection. We congratulate the Michigan PSC for putting consumers and competition first.”

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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.