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**COMPTTEL Commends FCC Chairman Wheeler for
Focus on Improving Broadband Competition**

WASHINGTON, DC – Today FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler discussed the future of broadband during remarks at an event hosted by 1776, a start-up incubator based in Washington, D.C.

The following statement can be attributed to Chip Pickering, CEO of COMPTTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive communications industry:

COMPTTEL applauds FCC Chairman Wheeler for again underscoring the importance of competition in the broadband market for connecting consumers, driving business and economic growth, spurring greater investments and encouraging continued innovation.

We agree with the Chairman that competition in the current broadband market is not sufficient and that, as the Chairman noted, 'the exercise of uncontrolled last mile power is not in the public interest. This has not changed as a result of new technology.' Whether the infrastructure is copper or fiber, or transmission is via TDM or IP, does not change the need for policies that promote competition and access to the customer via the last mile. Last mile access – regardless of the technology – is an absolute requirement for ensuring a competitive marketplace, and COMPTTEL supports the Commission's efforts to address its last mile access policies so competition will flourish.

We also applaud the Chairman recognizing the need to ensure rural Americans are not caught in a new digital divide as broadband speeds increase.

COMPTTEL and its members look forward to working with the Chairman and Commission staff to achieve the goals of promoting and protecting competition and ensuring that the U.S. has the most dynamic broadband ecosystem, which reaches every one of its citizens."

About COMPTTEL

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive communications service providers and their supplier partners. COMPTTEL 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. COMPTTEL advances its members' interests through trade shows, networking, education, and policy advocacy before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the courts. COMPTTEL 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.