



1200 G Street, NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20005 • 202-296-6650 • [www.comptel.org](http://www.comptel.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 21, 2014

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Gail Norris  
202-296-6650  
[gnorris@comptel.org](mailto:gnorris@comptel.org)

**COMPTEL Applauds FCC's Adoption of Technology Transitions  
NPRM and Declaratory Ruling**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today the Federal Communications Commission adopted a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) and declaratory ruling designed to protect consumers, competition and public safety in the ongoing technological transitions in the communications industry.

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

*“COMPTEL commends the Commission for its commitment to ensuring that public safety, competition and consumer protection are preserved during the technology transitions. Competitors have been leading the way on the IP transition for more than a decade, providing businesses, schools and libraries, nonprofits, the government and public safety agencies with alternative, innovative choices in the marketplace.*

*As incumbents embrace and adopt IP technology, it is imperative that competition continues and that access to customers via the last mile is not disrupted. Equivalent wholesale access at equivalent rates, terms and conditions is a critical component to promoting competition and ensuring that competitors can reach their customers.*

*The rulemaking that the Commission initiated today is an important step in providing the certainty competitors require to continue investing in the marketplace and benefitting business customers throughout the nation. We look forward to working with the Commission in this proceeding to ensure that competition advances as technologies evolve.”*

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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](http://www.comptel.org) or follow us on Twitter @COMPTEL.