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COMPTTEL Remarks on Congressional Open Internet Hearings

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee held hearings on protecting the Open Internet and consumers.

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

“COMPTTEL has long advocated for a legally sustainable approach that establishes bright lines for conduct in the broadband Internet access service marketplace. Today’s Congressional hearings demonstrated that the desire for strong rules to protect the open Internet is not divided down party lines. There is clearly bipartisan agreement that oversight is needed to ensure that no single Internet service provider is able to control consumers’ access to content.

We also are encouraged by the statements and the insightful questions from lawmakers about the role of interconnection in the delivery of Internet service. We believe policymakers must ensure that interconnection to the Internet service provider cannot be used to extract tolls for the delivery of content to consumers. This issue also is of great importance to ensuring the Internet remains open to all Americans.”

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 or follow us on Twitter @COMPTTEL.