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COMPTTEL Brings Top Policymakers, Lawmakers and Industry Leaders for Competition and Innovation Policy Summit

February 24 Event to Feature Keynote by FCC Commissioner Clyburn and Conversation with Sen. Wicker (R-MS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – [COMPTTEL](http://www.comptel.org), the leading trade association advocating for competitive networks and competitive communications policy, is bringing together leaders from the FCC, Congress, advocacy organizations, service providers and edge companies, to address critical issues facing the communications industry during its [Competition and Innovation Policy Summit](#), February 24 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

“This month marks 19 years since the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was signed into law and ushered in an unprecedented age of innovation, investment and competition,” said Chip Pickering, CEO of COMPTTEL. “COMPTTEL’s Competition and Innovation Policy is our signature event designed to recognize and embrace competitive policies and provide a forum for policymakers, lawmakers and technology leaders to discuss the critical issues facing the communications industry.”

The Policy Summit will open with a one-on-one conversation between Pickering and Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS), chairman of the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet. Sen. Wicker will discuss the current state of affairs in Congress and the issues taking priority with the committee.

FCC Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn will then deliver the keynote address at 10 a.m.

The remainder of the policy summit will feature panel discussions, including:

- ***View from the 8th Floor: The State of Wireline Communications Today*** – FCC Wireline Legal Advisors Daniel Alvarez (Chairman Wheeler), Rebekah Goodheart (Commissioner Clyburn) and Travis Litman (Commissioner Rosenworcel) will talk about the current state of the wireline communications industry and the myriad issues facing the Commission.
- ***Open Internet: What’s at Stake?*** – Abigail Slater, vice president of Legal and Regulatory Policy at the Internet Association; Joseph Cavender, vice president and assistant general counsel at Level 3; Sarah Morris, senior policy counsel for the New American Foundation’s Open Technology Institute; Cathy Sloan, vice president of Government Relations for the Computer and Communications Industry Association

(CCIA) and Melanie Wyne, senior technology policy representative for the National Association of Realtors; will share their views on the benefits of, and rules necessary, to protect and promote an open Internet.

- **Industry Leader Roundtable: Competition, Innovation, and Deployment** – Hear from Dave Schaeffer, CEO of Cogent; Kurt Van Wagenen, president and CEO of FirstLight Fiber; Milo Medin, vice president of Access Services for Google Fiber; and Michael Weidman, president and CEO of LS Networks; as they discuss why competitive markets continue to incent innovation and network deployment, as well as how major policy issues currently under examination can impact the market and customers, and what actions necessary to ensure continued growth of competition.
- **Pending Mergers: Outlook and Implications?** – As the FCC and Department of Justice continue to examine two substantial mergers, association leaders – including Gene Kimmelman, president of Public Knowledge; Genevieve Morelli, president of ITTA; Matt Polka, president of the American Cable Association; and Jill Canfield, vice president of legal and assistant general counsel for NTCA – will speak to the implications that these transactions would have on both consumers and businesses, and how they may impact ongoing proceedings at the Commission and issues facing Congress.

All registered attendees also are invited to attend the Policy Summit's networking lunch, which offers the opportunity to continue conversations on these issues in a more informal setting.

Register Now

Space is limited for the Policy Summit, so register now to ensure you don't miss this event. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.comptel.org/policysummit/>.

For press registration, e-mail Gail Norris at gnorris@comptel.org.

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 or follow us on Twitter @COMPTEL.