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## **COMPTTEL Praises FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn for Her Commitment to Competition Agenda**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – COMPTTEL, the leading trade association advocating for competitive networks and competitive technology policy, hosted the Competition & Innovation Policy Summit at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. today. **FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn** delivered the keynote address wherein she acknowledged the need to ensure wholesale access to the last mile in order to promote competition in the communications marketplace.

Commissioner Clyburn stated that the Commission should promote competition during and after the technology transitions by adopting the FCC's tentative conclusion to require equivalent access for the last mile so that businesses will continue to have competitive alternatives. She also acknowledged the Commission's long-standing special access reform proceeding, stating that with the data collection's completion by the end of February, the Commission will be in good shape to complete its analysis and take final action.

In the meantime, she has embraced Commission action on issues that are ripe, in parallel with the data analysis, specifically referring to special access volume terms and conditions, which impacts the ability of purchasers to use non-incumbent facilities, including constructing their own networks. Moreover, Commissioner Clyburn acknowledged that the Commission should address other barriers to competitive network deployment, including access to rights-of-way and poles, as well as video programming costs.

**The following statement can be attributed to Chip Pickering, CEO of COMPTTEL:**

"Commissioner Clyburn has long been a champion for competition and consumers. Today, she reinforced her commitment to promote a competition agenda at the FCC. Competitive carriers have led the industry in deploying IP networks and services. As the incumbent carriers begin to transition their own facilities, it is critical that competitors can obtain equivalent last mile access to customers, and we thank Commissioner Clyburn for her support on this issue.

"Commissioner Clyburn understands that special access reform is key to driving more competitive alternatives. This is important for businesses in all segments of the economy across the country. We agree with Commissioner Clyburn that the Commission should move quickly to address exclusionary lock-up provisions that deter the technology transitions and competitive network deployment, and COMPTTEL supports final action for overall reform in the proceeding by year-end."

“COMPTEL members are leaders in deploying new networks, but face significant barriers to competition, such as delayed access to poles, conduits, and rights-of way. Commission review of this issue, and coordinated action by the FCC and States is welcome by the competitive industry. We also are encouraged that Commissioner Clyburn acknowledges the role that high programming costs plays with respect to deployment. We stand ready to assist policymakers in this area.”

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**About COMPTEL**

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association advocating competitive networks and competitive communications policy. COMPTEL members are entrepreneurial companies driving technological innovation and creating economic growth through competitive voice, video, wireless 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 @COMPTEL on Twitter.