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**COMPTTEL Urges Expeditious Reform of
Special Access Services to Address Default
Granting of CenturyLink Forbearance Petition**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On December 13, 2013, CenturyLink filed a petition for forbearance from dominant carrier regulation and the *Computer Inquiry* tariffing requirements with respect to certain packet-switched and optical transmission services (together referred to as “enterprise broadband services”) offered by legacy CenturyTel and Embarq. Because the FCC did not take action on the petition, in accordance Section 10 of the statute, the petition was “deemed granted” on March 13, 2015.

The following statement can be attributed to Karen Reidy, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs at COMPTTEL, the leading trade association advocating for competitive networks and competitive communications policy:

“Sound Commission policies for wholesale last-mile access services are essential to competitive markets for retail broadband services provided to small businesses, mobile customers and enterprise customers. It is economically impossible for alternative providers to deploy connections to many customer locations. For that reason, the grant of CenturyLink’s petition (in this case by operation of law) that allows it to price critical wholesale inputs at exorbitant levels – as with similar grants to the other largest incumbents – impedes the Commission’s goals of promoting retail competition. In addition, harming retail competition will slow the deployment of broadband networks where feasible and the introduction of innovative and affordable broadband services upon which businesses and non-profits rely to operate and grow.

We look forward to working with the Commission, in its pending special access proceeding, to correct this market failure for wholesale last-mile access services. There is an urgent need for expeditious and comprehensive reform of the Commission’s policies for special access services, including packet-based special access services at issue in this ‘deemed grant.’”

About COMPTTEL

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association advocating for competitive networks and competitive communications policy. 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.