



For Immediate Release

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COMPTEL Leads Open Internet Brief Filed in Support of FCC

WASHINGTON DC (September 21, 2015) -- Today, COMPTEL, three of its member companies - Netflix, Cogent and Level 3 - and a number of consumer organizations including Public Knowledge and Free Press, are filing their Intervenor's brief in support of the FCC's Open Internet Order.

A PDF copy of the brief is attached.

In conjunction with the brief, Chip Pickering, CEO of COMPTEL, released the following statement:

“The FCC’s Order provides a balanced, light-touch framework for preserving the Open Internet relied upon by hundreds of millions of Americans. The FCC’s action protects both innovators and investors. It promotes both streamers and dreamers, providing the certainty needed for continued growth.

“What is more, the rules have now been in place for three months without any sign of harm to investment in broadband infrastructure. Quite the contrary. Wireline and wireless Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have continued to invest in their broadband networks. They have proposed and closed new mergers, and some have accepted Connect America Fund Phase II funds, committing to buildout broadband to rural America. In addition, we have seen a number of interconnection deals signed in the marketplace.

"Contrary to claims that the sky would fall, Open Internet protections have proven to be a free market driver. Indeed, stocks for incumbent and competitive networks and Internet companies are all maintaining and increasing in value. The rules benefit the entire Internet ecosystem and continued growth of this sector remains a catalyst for our economy. With the adoption of strong open Internet policy, the sun, sky and tech sector are still rising.

"While those urging Chicken Little thinking have attempted to inject fear into the debate, our brief lays out how ensuring openness and eliminating gatekeeper control does not adversely impact the Internet. Instead, it ensures that consumers can access the content they want, when they want it, without undue interference by large ISPs looking to squeeze more money from their customer base or edge providers. Further, it is within the Commission's authority to determine that broadband Internet access service is a telecommunications service, subject to Title II and for the Commission to ensure that ISPs cannot block or degrade Internet traffic—whether it occurs at the entrance to the ISP's network or anywhere within the ISP's network.

"The Commission's Open Internet Order is a win for consumers and all those who offer their services and products over the Internet. The FCC and the Intervenors have made a strong showing in their respective briefs that the Court should affirm the Order on all counts."

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