



For Immediate Release

## **INCOMPAS: Statement on Cable Industry Set-Top Box Proposal**

Washington DC (June 16, 2016) – Today the cable industry, which has been under pressure by consumers and competition advocates demanding an end to the \$20 billion cable set-top box monopoly, which costs American families \$231 per year, put forward a proposal to the FCC seeking to delay negotiations.

**In response, Chip Pickering, CEO of INCOMPAS and a member of the Consumer Video Choice Coalition (CVCC), released the following statement:**

“It is encouraging to see the cable industry willing to agree to three critical points. First, consumers should be free from rental boxes and have the power to choose their own devices. Second, consumers should have integrated search capabilities so they can find the Internet streaming content they crave. Third, cable induced fears over privacy, copyright, and licensing in an open, competitive device market are false.

“The unlock the box movement seeks to promote consumer savings, choice and innovation. The FCC has the opportunity to free consumers from the box of the past and unleash a future of true innovation and consumer choice.

“We look forward to continuing the dialogue with the cable industry. Their current proposal presents both some positive movement and some familiar limitations that could fall short of delivering an open, competitive marketplace.

“Consumers should be in control of their viewing experience and have greater choices in their app environment. This will produce the same innovative ecosystem we have seen on smart phones and other devices. In addition, the cable industry is proposing competitive choice for streaming devices, but still seeks to retain a controlling grip on DVRs and recordable devices.

“The cable industry has made promises before about ditching the set-top box, that have not materialized. So it is important for the FCC’s unlock the box proposal to include enforceable standards that will create a thriving market for competition, congruent with the law.

"Again, we welcome proposals and constructive conversations with the cable industry, the FCC, and all stakeholders as we work toward a better solution for customer choice, competition, and innovation."

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**About INCOMPAS:**

INCOMPAS, the Internet and competitive networks association, is the leading trade group advocating for competition policy across all networks. INCOMPAS represents Internet, communications and technology companies large and small, advocating for laws and policies that promote competition, innovation and economic development. Learn more at [www.incompas.org](http://www.incompas.org) or follow us on Twitter: @INCOMPAS @ChipPickering