



For Immediate Release

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## **Consolidation, Not Competition Will Hurt Broadband Infrastructure Goals**

### **INCOMPAS Statement on FCC Decision to Pull Business Data Services Order**

WASHINGTON DC (Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017) – On Friday, the Federal Communications Commission removed the Business Data Services Order from circulation at the FCC.

The Business Data Service proceeding, also known as special access, has been open for more than a decade. Significant data findings released last year found overwhelming concentration and market power, and should have triggered action by the FCC to help Americans who have been overcharged billions in broadband fees every time they use lines that power ATM machines, gas pumps and other business data services.

**In response to the FCC decision to remove the BDS Order from circulation, Chip Pickering, CEO of INCOMPAS and a former Republican Member of Congress, released the following statement:**

“Failure to fix the broken business broadband marketplace has saddled America with consolidation, not competition, and poses a serious threat to infrastructure goals necessary to putting America first in the race for faster, more affordable networks of the future.

“Buildings with more connections are buildings with greater value. But without real broadband choice, business customers—including hotels, schools, hospitals and libraries—will remain trapped by monopoly rents. We must stop forcing businesses to pay more for slower speeds, and start encouraging competition that will unleash billions in new private network investment and create new jobs.

“A broad coalition, including 3 of the 4 leading wireless companies, consumer groups, schools, hospitals, libraries and thousands of business customers who have chosen a competitive provider, have urged the FCC to address this decade-long crisis. We hope the FCC will re-engage and not let business broadband competition and the 5G future slip away.

#### **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