



For Immediate Release

INCOMPAS to FCC: USTelecom's Petition Should Be Dismissed, Not Fast-Track

Filed a Motion to Dismiss the "Competition Cut Off" Petition and For an Extension of Time

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 11, 2018) – INCOMPAS, the internet and competitive networks association who represents a number of broadband builders, filed two motions today at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding the petition filed by AT&T's trade group, the United States Telecom Association (USTA), that would allow incumbent providers to escape their obligations under Section 251 of the Communications Act requiring them to provide wholesale access to unbundled network elements (UNEs). UNEs offer a means of competitive entry that spurs fiber build and innovation.

One, INCOMPAS filed a [Motion to Dismiss](#) on the grounds the petition was not "complete-as-filed" since the petition relies on confidential data and purported interviews not included in the petition.

Two, INCOMPAS filed a [Motion for Extension of Time](#). The petition involves complex issues and, if granted, the impact would be widespread and detrimental to multiple parties and industries. The Commission must not rush through this process. Amongst other things, the Commission should gather necessary data to truly understand the market impact, provide access to data, and allow time for parties to provide economic analysis. The Commission also must engage in a thorough cost-benefit analysis, allowing interested parties sufficient notice and time to comment on such analysis.

Chip Pickering, CEO of INCOMPAS, released the following statement:

"An effort by big telecom companies to cut off competition and raise prices is bad news for consumers and bad for business in rural America.

"To be clear, this "competition cut off" petition should be stopped dead in its tracks. It only benefits a handful of the biggest telecom companies and hurts millions of small businesses that rely on affordable competitive broadband service.

"Time for significant debate and public comment is critical, as competitive broadband builders are a key player in our nation's deployment agenda. Smaller companies build new networks in rural communities and offer better customer service at affordable prices. We should be promoting competition, not killing it."

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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, streaming, 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 or follow us on Twitter: @INCOMPAS @ChipPickering.