



For Immediate Release

## **INCOMPAS Commends FCC for Extension of Time on "Competition Cut Off" UNE Petition**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 4, 2018)** – INCOMPAS is commending the FCC for granting their extension request against a USTelecom led petition that threatens to cut off access to broadband competition and raise prices for consumers.

Late Friday, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted INCOMPAS' Motion for Extension of Time on USTelecom's UNE Forbearance petition, for both comments and replies, which will now be due on August 6th and September 5th respectively. The FCC has also released a [Protective order](#).

The petition in question 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) and offer certain resale arrangements. UNEs and resale offer a means of competitive entry that spurs fiber building and innovation.

INCOMPAS thanks the Commission for recognizing more time is needed to respond to the petition and is hopeful that the Commission will develop a full record that thoroughly analyzes the petition's impact to all markets – residential, business, anchor institutions, and the deployment of new networks.

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

"Broadband competition is a national priority, and we commend Chairman Pai and the FCC for accepting our request to extend the comment period on this critical wholesale access proceeding.

"America's economy runs on access to networks, and competition keeps prices low and innovation high. The effort by AT&T/USTelecom to cut off competition from small broadband service providers will impact consumers, small business and schools across the country, including rural America. Cutting off wholesale access will hurt new network builders and the deployment agenda that all Americans crave.

"We urge the FCC to reject the effort on its face and are pleased they have granted additional time to allow for public comment and more rigorous economic study. Many markets, including residential, business, education and rural are impacted by USTelecom's competition killer, making it critical that the Commission continue to ensure a thorough and thoughtful analysis throughout the proceeding."

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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](http://www.incompas.org) or follow us on Twitter: @INCOMPAS @ChipPickering