



For Immediate Release

## **Competitive Broadband CEOs Meet with FCC Commissioners to Discuss Broadband Competition**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 2, 2018)** – Leaders of six small, local competitive broadband providers came to Washington, D.C. last week advocating for broadband competition at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Their companies service many rural and underserved areas and they met with Chairman Pai, Commissioners Carr and O'Reilly, as well as Commissioner Rosenworcel's Chief of Staff, to strongly warn against a petition filed by USTelecom, AT&T's trade association, that threatens to cut off their customers.

The petition will 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 an important means of competitive entry that spurs new fiber building and innovation.

The CEOs emphasized the petition's threat to the Commission's broadband deployment goals that are critical to our nation's economic growth, education, health, and public safety needs. The executives of these small businesses are integral to the fabric of the communities they serve and seek to bridge the digital divide in order to bring broadband competition to those communities.

**Ex Parte letters with a full summary of the meetings can be read [here](#).**

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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