



For Immediate Release

INCOMPAS to FCC: Broadband Maps are Inadequate; Monopolies/Duopolies Don't Equal Competition, Need At Least Three or More

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 17, 2018) – Today, INCOMPAS, the internet and competitive networks association, filed comments at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in response to the Wireline Competition Bureau's Public Notice requesting information for the assessment of competition in the fixed broadband market.

INCOMPAS' comments explain that in order to formulate policies encouraging broadband competition, it is necessary to have an accurate accounting of where there is and isn't sufficient competition across America. As such, INCOMPAS is calling upon the FCC to reform its collection of broadband data via its Form 477 proceeding.

It is necessary for the Commission to gather location-specific information from each fixed broadband provider for both their residential and business customers in order to derive a true representation of service offerings. Only in a local geographic market where there are at least three providers that are offering service over their own last mile facilities is there sufficient competition. A monopoly or duopoly is not true competition.

INCOMPAS outlines a number of pro-competition and pro-deployment steps the FCC has taken over the past year through proceedings at the Commission. In particular, they praise the Commission's recent adoption of one-touch make-ready ("OTMR") in August and its small cell deployment agenda adopted earlier this year—both are critical to our deployment agenda and the race to 5G networks.

Additionally, the comments detail areas where more broadband competition is needed and different actions the FCC can take to promote pro-competition policies.

In particular, INCOMPAS has filed a Motion for a Summary Denial of USTelecom's Forbearance Petition. Fiber builders use unbundled network elements ("UNEs") to build more and faster broadband to consumers, small and medium-sized businesses, as well as schools, libraries, public safety and other local and state government agencies. In fact, competitive providers use this broadband bridge to build more fiber than incumbents, deliver faster broadband speeds than the incumbents, and offer lower prices and better service to customers.

Read INCOMPAS' Full Comments [Here](#).

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

"It's time for an all of the above deployment agenda that brings broadband competition to all Americans. Consumers deserve more choices, faster speeds and lower prices without further delay.

"The first step is admitting we have a massive problem. The vast majority of Americans live in a broadband monopoly or duopoly. That is unacceptable. As discussed at yesterday's oversight hearing, the maps are inadequate; competition is the law and people deserve to have multiple providers delivered to their front door or place of business.

“Small, local providers are deploying more fiber, with faster speeds and lower prices, than the big guys. The FCC should be encouraging these developments, instead of letting big incumbents cut off competition and slow the deployment of new, future networks.”

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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