



For Immediate Release

INCOMPAS: Over 8000 Customers Warn FCC Against “Competition Cut Off”

In Reply Comments Against USTelecom Petition, INCOMPAS Highlights Massive Opposition to Broadband Rate Hike

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 6, 2018) – INCOMPAS, the internet and competitive networks association, has filed a reply comment at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in opposition to big telecom companies’ effort to cut off competition and raise broadband prices.

INCOMPAS has rallied smaller, local competitive broadband providers into a coalition called Bridge2Broadband. This effort has asked customers, businesses, and consumers who want more broadband choice to take action and tell the FCC their personal story. The result, so far, has been over 8000 individual letters to the FCC warning against USTelecom’s “Competition Cut Off”.

In May, AT&T-led trade association, USTelecom, petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to cut off competition and institute broadband price hikes. The initial comment round featured overwhelming opposition to the petition, including from 23 competitive providers, nine consumer and public interest groups, eight trade associations, four state public utility commissions, and two cable providers. In addition, the US Small Business Administration warned the petition would be “devastating” to small businesses.

Also notable is the strong support in the docket for INCOMPAS’ Motion for Summary Denial, including from Members of Congress, several states, as well as a multitude of local, competitive providers. All of these filings cite the harm granting USTelecom’s petition would cause for both consumers of competition, and the nation’s deployment agenda.

Read INCOMPAS’ reply comments [here](#).

Also read INCOMPAS’ original substantive [filing](#) and [Economic Study](#).

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

“The record is clear. Over eight thousand broadband customers have shared a personal story with the FCC warning against big telecom’s effort to cut off competition and raise broadband prices. These consumers and small business voices join a number of states, lawmakers, consumer groups, schools, libraries, and the Small Business Administration who are speaking out to save the bridge to broadband so that small, local broadband providers can continue deploying faster, more affordable networks of the future.

“Our original comments included game-changing economic analysis indicating that local competitive broadband providers are building more fiber than giant telecom incumbents - who are over two hundred times larger and with much deeper pockets. In addition, local competitive providers are delivering faster

speeds and using the bridge to broadband to connect rural customers who have been abandoned by incumbents.

“Broadband deployment that bridges the digital divide and connects rural America to faster, more affordable networks of the future is a bipartisan goal. Customers from Kansas to California, from Oregon to Ohio, are warning that cutting off competition will cut them off from the future, and we hope Washington is listening.”

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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