



For Immediate Release

INCOMPAS Files FCC Net Neutrality Comments

Citing Streaming Competition, Warn Against Cable Gatekeeper Control

WASHINGTON DC (July 17, 2017) – INCOMPAS, the internet and competitive networks association, filed comments today with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) warning against proposed changes to net neutrality rules.

To read a copy of the INCOMPAS comments, please click here.

[http://www.incompas.org/files/INCOMPAS--RIF%20Comments%20WC%20Docket%20No_%2017-108%20\(July%2017,%202017\).pdf](http://www.incompas.org/files/INCOMPAS--RIF%20Comments%20WC%20Docket%20No_%2017-108%20(July%2017,%202017).pdf)

[http://www.incompas.org/files/INCOMPAS--RIF%20Comments%20Exhibits%20\(17July2017\).pdf](http://www.incompas.org/files/INCOMPAS--RIF%20Comments%20Exhibits%20(17July2017).pdf)

The 100-page filing from INCOMPAS argues that because residential broadband competition is sorely lacking in the broadband markets, ending open internet protections will hand control of the internet over to monopoly-minded cable and phone companies who have articulated their desire to unfairly disadvantage edge providers and independent content distributors.

“[T]he Commission now asks the public to take a chance on a different concept of the Internet—one where gatekeepers that control access to the Internet, and not exclusively the users of the Internet, can determine the fate of networked content, applications, devices, and services. This proposal turns its back on the historical role of the Commission to protect the public’s ability to connect without permission. Yet, it is not an unfamiliar paradigm, because at bottom it is a proposal that will lead to an Internet that more closely resembles cable television.”

The filing also demonstrates that the Commission’s proposed legal analysis is fatally flawed and contrary to precedent established by previous administrations and the courts. If the Commission proceeds as planned, it will hand the Internet to large broadband providers who have the incentive to block, throttle, and slow down competitive content and services. INCOMPAS specifically notes that the court already has rejected the bright line rules being applied to information service providers and emphasizes that the existing 2015 framework is the only one that has been upheld by the court and follows the guidance set forth by Justice Antonin Scalia.

In addition to the filing, **Chip Pickering, CEO of INCOMPAS** and a former Republican Member of Congress who introduced the first legislation to protect an open internet, **released the following statement:**

“The FCC is pushing the internet down a very dangerous path, one that is anti-competition, anti-consumer and anti-streaming. The FCC plan would end open internet protections, overturning conservative legal principles promoted by Justice Scalia, and give more control and market power to large cable and phone companies who plan to silence new voices and favor the liberal content and other affiliated services they own.

“The current open internet rules are saving consumers money, creating jobs and unleashing innovation investment. Moving from an open internet to a gatekeeper internet would hurt the streaming revolution and be bad for business on main street.”

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