



For Immediate Release

## **INCOMPAS File FCC Comments on CenturyLink – Level 3 Merger**

### **Say Competition at Risk, Merger Could Slow Innovative Fiber Infrastructure**

WASHINGTON DC (January 24, 2017) — INCOMPAS, the Internet and competitive networks association, raised concerns about the proposed merger of CenturyLink and Level 3 Communications. In comments to the FCC, the association warned the merger could result in less competition, higher prices, and a decline in new fiber infrastructure for business broadband.

**A copy of the filing can be found [here](#).**

“Level 3 is a shining example of how competition and interconnection policy bring more innovation and better customer service to market – it is a competitive provider that both builds and leases wholesale access to benefit the broadband ecosystem, said Karen Reidy, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs. “While we understand why an incumbent like CenturyLink would desire to acquire such an innovative network, the significant reduction in competitive choice at building locations across CenturyLink’s footprint threatens to saddle business customers with less choice and higher prices and the transaction threatens to slow down the construction of new fiber infrastructure across the nation.”

The INCOMPAS filing also points to inadequate information presented on dark fiber, as a potential red flag for the important long haul transmission market – essential to connecting networks both wired and wireless that are powering business transactions and streaming services.

“Level 3 is one of the strongest facilities-based providers offering a competitive alternative to the incumbent LECs general stronghold over facilities-based Ethernet services. The Commission must ensure that the competitive force-and the potential build out Level 3 offered- is not lost as a result of this merger,” added Reidy.

#### **About INCOMPAS:**

INCOMPAS, the Internet and competitive networks association, is the leading trade group advocating for competition policy across all networks. INCOMPAS represents Internet, 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