



For Immediate Release

INCOMPAS Statement on FCC Plan to Kill Net Neutrality

WASHINGTON, DC (Nov 21, 2017) – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced plans today to eliminate bi-partisan net neutrality protections that have guided unprecedented freedom and growth of the internet for almost two decades.

The FCC will vote on the proposal on December 14th, 2017.

In response, Chip Pickering, CEO of INCOMPAS and a former Republican Member of Congress who led the effort to pass the first net neutrality legislation in Congress, released the following statement:

“The FCC’s proposal to kill net neutrality will have consumers screaming, businesses reeling and Justice Scalia spinning in his grave.

“Chairman Pai’s rejection of bi-partisan open internet principles will slow down the streaming revolution and slap small business, who are migrating to the cloud in record numbers, with higher prices.

"The FCC knows they have a terrible legal hand but remain willing to plunge an open internet, the engine of our economy, into chaos. Comcast and AT&T have the means, motive and history of doing harm to an open internet. Ending net neutrality could cost consumers hundreds of millions in new fees, and should be deeply troubling for all Americans.

“Seeking to pass the buck to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is a regulatory ruse. Net Neutrality is a network issue and deserves oversight by the expert network agency—the FCC. It is also important to note that if AT&T’s 9th Circuit Court decision holds, the FTC would no longer have any jurisdiction over any company that is affiliated with a common carrier. This would give cable gatekeepers the power to block, throttle and control access to the internet with no oversight from the FCC or FTC.

“The FCC should heed the warning of the Department of Justice (DOJ), who issued a statement in favor of competition and a warning against the power of consolidation. In contrast to the FCC, the DOJ said AT&T and Comcast have the means and motives to harm the development of streaming video in order to protect their broadband and content monopolies.

"Chairman Pai's affection for AT&T and Comcast holds great political risk for President Trump and the entire Republican party. No one wants to see the internet turned into cable and have to pay more for streaming and other services they love."

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