



2023 Policy Accomplishments

INCOMPAS, the internet and competitive networks association, is the leading trade association advocating for competition and innovation in the broadband marketplace. INCOMPAS is unique among trade associations in that we represent the entire internet value chain. Our core mission is to ensure that competitive communications and technology providers can continue to develop and deliver better service and greater innovation to consumers and businesses. We represent new network builders, internet innovators, and the world's leading video streaming and cloud services. Our members help deliver better service to consumers, businesses, government agencies, and local communities seeking more choice, lower prices, and faster broadband speeds that attract jobs and private investment.

Our competitive broadband companies are building networks of the future, including fiber, fixed wireless, mobile (5G), and satellite networks that connect residences, businesses, and community anchor institutions. We also represent online content companies that are investing significantly in network infrastructure and delivering streaming, cloud, social media, and other online content, services, and goods to meet consumer and business needs across the globe.

In 2023, INCOMPAS' advocacy was critical in obtaining the following policy wins on behalf of our members:

- **Breaking Down Barriers to Deployment via Railroads:** In May, the House Energy and Commerce Committee adopted our [Railroad Amendment](#) in the Broadband Permitting Package. Building off that amendment, we have been working on a bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation to address this issue.
- **FCC Poles Proceeding:** We continued our advocacy work on poles with an industry sign-on [letter](#) to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) urging it to move forward on the current poles proceeding to ensure a fair process for allocating costs for pole replacement and expediting disputes in order allow our members to deploy their networks to all corners of the country. In December, the Commission adopted an item that creates a new dispute resolution process to speed deployment, adds new transparency requirements for pole owners, clarifies the range of scenarios under which it is impermissible for pole owners to require an attacher to pay the entire cost of a pole replacement, and seeks additional comment on issues associated with large pole orders.
- **Universal Service Reform:** INCOMPAS President Angie Kronenberg [testified](#) as an expert witness at the Senate hearing on the Future of the Universal Service Fund. In addition, we participated in the first roundtable of the bicameral, bipartisan USF working group initiated by Chairman Ben Ray Lujan and Ranking Member John Thune. We also contributed to and published a major white paper from the Brattle Group: [The Economics of Universal Service Reform](#), and developed and released a [video](#) that explains why USF reform is needed.

- **Junk Fees and Multichannel Video Program Distributor Issues:** We have been active in keeping streaming providers out of the FCC’s junk fee discussion. We also led the messaging during the House hearing on the state of the video marketplace to prevent antiquated regulations from being applied to streamers.
- **12.2-12.7 GHz Proceeding:** We lead the [5G for 12 GHz Coalition](#) and were successful in prompting the FCC to consider using the lower 12 GHz band for high-powered, two-way terrestrial fixed broadband service.
- **State Broadband Plans:** We successfully advocated that competitive providers should be included in state broadband plans, and secured favorable language for faster broadband networks, wholesale access, and lowering barriers to deployment for access to rights-of-way and permitting fees.
- **Broadband Ready City Checklist:** To help local communities, both urban and rural, speed the deployment of new networks, we developed and shared the [Broadband Ready City Checklist](#) with congressional offices and state broadband offices. The Checklist reflects best practices used by the nation’s leading fiber-friendly communities that have taken a pro-competition approach to reducing barriers to deployment while helping families, schools, libraries, and small businesses connect to faster speeds at lower prices.
- **Build America, Buy America (BABA) Waiver for BEAD Program:** With other industry associations, we helped secure a waiver opportunity for our member companies to satisfy Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP):** INCOMPAS helped secure dozens of organizations’ advocacy support for more funding from Congress for the ACP, including a resolution from the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).
- **Broadband Labels:** The FCC affirmed in its Order on Reconsideration that broadband labels are intended for residential and small business broadband customers, while enterprise services, including those sold to schools and libraries in the E-rate program, are excluded from the requirements.
- **Call Blocking and Labeling:** We worked with the Cloud Communications Alliance and the VON Coalition to encourage adoption of SIP Code 608—a standardized call blocking notification code—that provides competitive providers with actionable information about the blocked traffic and how to seek redress from the offending provider. We also highlighted growing concern over mislabeling and call presentation treatment of competitive voice traffic at the terminating end of the call path by wireless carriers’ analytics providers.

- **International 214:** As the FCC considered and implemented a one-time collection of information from authorization holders, we secured an exception for companies that have gone through recent ownership reviews at the agency.
- **FCC Confirmations:** We were proud to play a supportive role in the confirmations of Commissioner Starks, Commissioner Carr and the newest Commissioner, Anna Gomez. We led several other industry trade associations in supporting their confirmation process.
- **Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board Nomination:** The FCC selected our member nominee for the USAC Board.

In 2023, the INCOMPAS Policy Team also accomplished the following:

- Filed over 40 pleadings and letters federal and state proceedings representing our members' interests.
- Published 12 leadership blogs.
- Met weekly with our members to provide updates on policy developments and strategy and met quarterly with our Board's Policy Committee to obtain their good counsel and guidance on our work.
- Provided our members 50 end-of-week updates on federal and state policy developments.
- Managed three member working groups focused on our members' most pressing needs regarding broadband deployment; implementation of STIR-SHAKEN and mitigation of robocalls and robotexting; and new fees on tech and USF reform. We met with our working groups about 50 times during the year.
- Participated in four industry and public interest coalitions that focus on open internet and competition, broadband equity and adoption, and FCC's E-rate and Rural Healthcare programs.
- Met with White House, Congressional, FCC, NTIA, DOT, and State Broadband Offices too many times to count.
- [Hosted 8 webinars](#) to highlight important initiatives and salient topics driven by members.
- Attended the White House Event on the Infrastructure Act's BEAD Program.

- Filed comments in 45 states and territories on NTIA's BEAD Program, Initial Proposal Volume II, advocating on our policy positions including fiber/fixed wireless access, open access-wholesale condition, streamlining, and removing barriers to deployment.
- Participated on two FCC Federal Advisory Committees: the North American Numbering Council and the Consumer Advisory Committee.
- Participated in dozens of panels and webinars to represent our members' interests, including at State of the Net, Broadband Communities, Cloud Connections 2023, and FCBA-The Tech Bar.
- Planned and hosted The INCOMPAS Policy Summit, where numerous policymakers and industry leaders discussed the critical issues for the industry. More than 150 people attended.
- Planned and hosted The INCOMPAS Trade Show in Tampa, Fla., where more than 1,100 attendees representing over 200 companies gathered for deal-making, networking opportunities, and an education program featuring industry leaders and policymakers.