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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 23, 2010

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**COMPTEL Statement on FCC Decision on Qwest Forbearance**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – COMPTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive telecommunications industry, today issued the following statement on the decision of the Federal Communications Commission denying Qwest’s petition for relief from unbundling and other wholesale obligations in the Phoenix metropolitan area. The following statement can be attributed to Jerry James, CEO of COMPTEL:

*“COMPTEL is pleased that the Commission engaged in such a thorough and thoughtful analysis of the state of competition in both the wholesale and retail markets in Phoenix when determining that Qwest did not make its case for forbearance. We are especially gratified that the Commission acknowledged that the predictive judgments it made in Omaha were not borne out by marketplace developments and that forbearance should not be granted in the absence of sufficient competition to constrain prices and protect consumers and the public interest. This decision will allow competition to continue to prosper in Phoenix, which will bring a myriad of benefits to the economy.*

*The Commission is to be applauded for applying a fact-based and data-driven approach and for providing clarity for future petitions.”*

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**About COMPTEL**

*Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive communications service providers and their supplier partners. COMPTEL members are entrepreneurial companies driving technological innovation and creating economic growth through competitive voice, video, and data offerings and the development and deployment of next-generation, IP-based networks and services. COMPTEL advances its members’ interests through trade shows, networking, education, and policy advocacy before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the courts. COMPTEL works to ensure that competitive communications providers can continue to offer lower prices, better service, and greater innovation to consumers. For more information, visit [www.comptel.org](http://www.comptel.org).*