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CompTIA is a twenty-two year old, global trade association representing the business interests of 20,000 information technology and communications member companies. (More information is available at www.comptia.org.)

E-Commerce and the Internet

CompTIA believes that the broad educational, cultural, social and economic benefits stimulated by e-commerce and the use of the Internet by both individuals and organizations justifies active government encouragement and support for a wider use of the Internet across all sectors. It also justifies regulatory restraint by governments when they address new legal and policy problems arising from online activities. This is true of both consumer and business matters. Consumer confidence in the Internet is essential to the medium's growth. This includes such areas as the protection of consumers from the invasion of their privacy and from common criminal activities.

CompTIA is convinced, however, that in a young, global and dynamic medium like the Internet, normal government regulation is often not the most effective means to protect consumers' interests. More often, consumers will benefit most from a combination of the rigorous enforcement of existing regulations combined with the increased training of law enforcement officials in Internet practices; consumer education; technology tools and industry best practices. New Internet-specific regulations should be considered only if other techniques fail.

Earlier this year CompTIA called on Congress to "Free The Internet From Needless Regulation." The Internet flowered in large part because of little or no government regulation. Policymakers must establish policies that breathe fresh air into – not smother – creativity, investment, productivity enhancement, cultural enrichment and education by resisting the temptation to impose the last century's regulations on the new century's Information Highway. *Actions include: (1) Keeping VoIP free from telephone-like regulations; and (2) Passing a permanent Internet Tax Moratorium.*

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