



The VON Coalition

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## **Cutting Edge VoIP Companies Applaud Congressional Leaders Vision** Group Asks FCC Not To Apply Legacy Phone Regulations

**Washington, D.C.** – The nation's leading VoIP companies today commended House leaders for calling on the FCC to rule that VoIP services are interstate in nature and subject to the jurisdiction of the FCC. The VON Coalition members, who are on the cutting edge of developing and delivering voice innovations, also praised the lawmakers for their visionary leadership in advocating communications policy for the future.

"We applaud this bipartisan, forward-looking, group of Members of Congress for their willingness to take bold action to advance good public policy," said David Svanda VON spokesperson and immediate past president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. Svanda said, "these leaders recognize that VoIP is not another flavor of telephone service, but can be a new frontier in communications that requires entirely new approaches."

The VON Coalition adds its voice to those in Congress in asking the FCC to act quickly to establish the right jurisdictional framework and unleash the job creating potential of Internet innovation.

"The potential for a vast new wave of VoIP-led technological innovation is here," said Svanda. "In order to unlock the economic and consumer benefits that VoIP promises, federal and state policymakers should not apply legacy regulations, but instead must nurture future innovation and be partners in finding solutions to emerging policy issues."

To achieve these many benefits, policymakers need to establish an appropriate regulatory regime that recognizes that VoIP is interstate in nature and recognizes the successful hands off approach to regulating all forms of Internet communications. Such a regime would preserve state involvement as needed, while allowing VoIP companies the freedom to find the best path to implementing the important social policy goals to which they are committed.

"The VON Coalition believes that this transformative new technology requires forward thinking approaches. We look forward to working with the Congress, FCC and the states, as well as rural, urban, and other interests to forge innovative yet pragmatic solutions that enable consumers, businesses, and the economy to achieve the full promise and potential that VoIP can deliver," Svanda said.

### **About the VON Coalition:**

The Voice on the Net or VON Coalition consists of leading VoIP companies, on the cutting edge of developing and delivering voice innovations over Internet. The coalition, which includes AT&T, BMX, Callipso, CallSmart, Convedia, Covad, IceNet, iBasis, Intel, Intrado, Level 3, MCI, Microsoft, PointOne, Pulver.com, Skype, Teleglobe, Texas Instruments, US Datanet, VocalData, and Voiceglo, believes that

Americans are fundamentally better off with a generally hands off regulatory approach to Internet and Internet based services like VoIP. Since its inception, the VON Coalition has consistently advocated that federal and state regulators maintain current policies of refraining from extending legacy regulations to Internet services, including VoIP. More information about the VON Coalition can be obtained at the following website: <http://www.von.org>