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VoIP Leaders Hail First Step Towards Unleashing Full Promise of New Technologies

Today the FCC voted to assert exclusive but limited federal jurisdiction over VoIP. The following statement can be attributed to David Svanda, VON Coalition spokesperson and immediate past president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

> *"The FCC today embraced the future of VoIP by ensuring it will be free from a patchwork of multiple - and inevitably conflicting - state jurisdictions. The VON Coalition praises today's decision to declare VoIP an interstate service, but cautions that this is only one small step toward unleashing the full promise and potential of VoIP. The FCC now must act quickly to reform the badly broken intercarrier compensation system and make sure new technologies and services will not be hindered by a scheme to subsidize old networks. We look forward to working with Congress, the FCC and the states, as well as rural, urban, and other interests, to forge original yet pragmatic solutions that enable consumers, businesses, and the economy to achieve the full promise and potential that VoIP can deliver."*

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