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**CHAIRMAN WHEELER STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF CHARLES BENTON**

Washington, D.C. – Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler issued the following statement today on the passing of Charles Benton:

“Charles Benton dedicated his life to ensuring that our communications networks serve everyone regardless of age, race or economic means. He was among the first to recognize that access to communications networks is more than an economic or first amendment issue; it is a social justice issue. Through his own Benton Foundation and through his support of communications policy advocacy and public media organizations, Charles improved the lives of countless numbers of Americans. Charles’ distinctive voice and style will be missed here at the FCC, but his legacy will certainly live on.”

**- FCC -**