

Statement of the Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Mark-up of H.R. 2844, The Federal Communications Commission
Consolidated Reporting Act of 2013
July 30, 2013

FCC process reform has long been a priority of the Subcommittee, and over the course of the past two years and a half years, we've held multiple hearings, marked up bills, and passed a bill on the floor of the House. While it is well established where my colleagues and I disagree on the specific language of the broader process reform bill, I think we all agree that government agencies should have transparent, predictable, and consistent processes that ensure the agency is productive in carrying out its responsibilities. To that end, I'm pleased to cosponsor the FCC Consolidated Reporting Act, along with Ranking Member Eshoo and Mr. Scalise.

As I've said before, current regulations are so outdated that a provision requiring an assessment of telegraph competition is still on the books. That doesn't make sense. Eliminating these sorts of reports will reduce administrative burdens and give the taxpayer and the consumer

the efficient federal government that they deserve. H.R. 2844 is a simple measure that will grant Congress, industry, and consumers timely access to the Commission's best analysis of the communications landscape at the beginning of each Congress by requiring a Communications Marketplace Report. This approach recognizes the converging nature of the communications and technology sector, one of the most innovative in our economy.

Two weeks ago, this subcommittee met for a legislative hearing on this bill. I'm proud to say that there was little to no disagreement on the need for and language in the consolidated reporting bill. However, we heard from the FCC that there were concerns that under certain circumstances a new FCC Chairman could face a daunting timeline under the language of this bill. After subcommittee markup, my staff met with staff for Ranking Members Waxman and Eshoo and we will be offering a bipartisan manager's amendment to make small changes to address specific agency concerns.

Reducing the burden on the FCC to produce multiple reports and instead produce one comprehensive and informative review of the marketplace is the kind of common-sense legislation that this committee has dedicated it to in working to prepare our government to be more nimble in the information economy. I look forward to moving this bill expeditiously with bipartisan support.