

AMENDMENT TO DRAFT OVERSIGHT PLAN

OFFERED BY REP. RUIZ

Insert new section under COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES titled PROTECTING FIRST AMENDMENT GUARANTEES:

The Committee will conduct oversight and investigate, as necessary, any issues or allegations that threaten to undermine the freedom of speech and right to a free press under the First Amendment. These important Constitutional rights are central to democracy and a free society. The FCC plays a pivotal role in the licensing of broadcast stations which have a distinct obligation to operate in the public interest. The FCC also provides authorizations and regulations for other entities that disseminate content to the public. The Committee must ensure that the right to disseminate such content is free from threat of retaliation by the FCC or other government entities on the basis of the specific viewpoint taken by the entity or its affiliates.