

Opening Statement for Chair Gus M. Bilirakis
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce
Full Committee Markup
March 9, 2023

As prepared for delivery

Good morning –

I want to thank my good friend, Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers, for her inclusion of five Innovation, Data, and Commerce Subcommittee bills on today’s markup, some of which have been introduced and circulated for years and finally getting a vote out of committee.

The bills we’re considering today are essential to cementing American leadership in technology and providing Americans with greater transparency regarding the websites and applications they use.

Americans are the most innovative people in the world, and we must eliminate government barriers to ensure American innovators are empowered to push the frontiers of innovation.

One way to empower American innovators is encouraging foreign direct investment from responsible and trusted countries. Another way is to increase transparency, and provide consumers with the information they need to make informed decisions.

I want to thank Mr. Pence and for his leadership on the Global Investment in American Jobs Act. This bill will help us understand the barriers to increasing investment from friendly nations and leading in future emerging technologies.

Sunshine is the best disinfectant. Rep. Cammack and Rep. Soto’s bipartisan CAUTION Act requires app stores to prominently disclose if an app has been banned on federal devices. Americans should know when they are downloading an application deemed a security threat by the federal government.

Rep. Fulcher’s Internet App ID Act would require apps to disclose if they are owned by the CCP or a business domiciled in the People’s Republic of China. Failure to disclose Chinese-ownership would be subject to penalties enforced by the Federal Trade Commission.

The TELL Act, introduced by Rep. Duncan, would require tech companies to notify their users that their platform stores data in the People’s Republic of China. If an app is sending or storing data in China – Americans should know it.

As our committee continues to advance legislation to improve American competitiveness on the global stage, I want to reemphasize this Committee’s priority to pass a national privacy and data security law.

Again, I want to thank the chair for today’s full committee markup. I yield back.

