

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Ranking Member Doris Matsui**  
  
*Markup of 19 Bills, Full Committee*  
  
**March 24, 2023**

Thank you, Chairwoman Rodgers.

As I said at the Communications and Technology Subcommittee markup, I'm proud of the bipartisan bills we've advanced but remain concerned about the partisan legislation which I think will be counterproductive.

There's no doubt that scrutiny of the broadband permitting process is needed. This is especially true as federal funding from the bipartisan infrastructure law starts flowing to the states.

I recently held a broadband roundtable in my district with federal, state, and local officials. This type of collaboration should be our north star for closing the digital divide.

The bipartisan bills on the agenda today do just that. However, the partisan bill before us would reinforce a combative rather than collaborative relationship with local governments.

Local governments in my district are concerned about heavy-handed preemption in the partisan bill on the agenda today.

I'd encourage the Members of this Committee to reach out to their mayors and city council members. I'm sure they'll share these concerns.

These local officials understand the challenges they face better than anyone. They know where broadband is available, where it's not, and the barriers they face to connectivity.

So, I hope we can refocus our efforts through a lens of collaboration and local expertise.

Because without feedback from those *actually living* in unserved communities, I'm worried our efforts will fall short.

So again, I'm excited about the bipartisan bills, and hopeful we can course correct on the misguided approach taken by the partisan bill today.

With that Madame Chair, I yield the balance of my time.