

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Ranking Member Doris Matsui

Markup of Six Bills, Full Committee

July 27, 2023

Thank you, Chairwoman Rodgers.

As I said at the Communications and Technology Subcommittee markup, oversight of the NTIA is one of the most crucial functions of our Sub- and this full-Committee.

That role is more than just ensuring federal funds are being used wisely – it means defending the agency’s jurisdiction and supporting its statutory role as manager of the federal government’s use of spectrum.

This role has never been more important.

In the middle of a protracted lapse in the FCC’s auction authority and in the run up to one of the most consequential world radio conferences in a generation, we need NTIA doing its job.

With the bipartisan NTIA Reauthorization Act, we’re providing new tools and authority to ensure the agency can fulfill its mission.

That means elevating the NTIA Administrator from Assistant to Under Secretary and modernizing the Agency’s mission to reflect the challenges of today and opportunities of tomorrow.

I’m also glad this bill includes my Spectrum Coexistence Act. This language will require NTIA to conduct a review of federal receiver technology to support more intensive use of spectrum.

The FCC released a set of receiver principles for commercial equipment, and it’s important we do the same for federal tech.

We can’t afford to have outdated equipment, on the commercial or government side, preventing opportunities for more efficient uses of spectrum.

As greenfield opportunities become fewer and further between, it’s steps like this that will keep the spectrum pipeline strong.

This bill also includes the SMART Act Congressman Guthrie and I introduced to develop an Incumbent Informing Capability.

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This would allow federal users to share spectrum with commercial users by telling them when and where they're operating in real time.

Taken together this bill will be a powerful tool for a more concerted federal approach to tech and telecommunications policy. I look forward to seeing it on the floor soon.

And while it's not on the agenda today, I know there is still bipartisan interest from leaders of the Sub and full committees to advance my Spectrum Relocation Enhancement Act as soon as possible.

I appreciate that shared goal and look forward to working with the Majority to get it on the next full committee markup.

With that, I yield the balance of my time.