

**Opening Statement Chairman Robert E. Latta
Energy and Commerce Committee Markup
March 20, 2023
(As Prepared for Delivery)**

Good morning. Today we are considering four pieces of legislation from the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology that passed with bipartisan support.

The Chinese Communist Party poses a significant threat to American communications networks. Companies with ties to the CCP can be called upon to support, assist, and cooperate with China's national intelligence work, wherever they operate. As a result, the presence of equipment from Chinese vendors in our networks poses a significant threat to our national security.

This Committee, on a bipartisan basis, has prioritized addressing this threat. We passed the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act to remove Huawei and ZTE equipment from our networks, and we passed the Secure Equipment Act, which prohibits the Federal Communications Commission from authorizing equipment from untrusted vendors.

Today's legislation builds on this work.

I'm pleased to lead H.R. 7589, the ROUTERS Act. This legislation would require NTIA to study whether certain routers and modems produced by companies with ties to our adversaries pose an unacceptable risk to our national security. Routers from untrusted vendors, particularly those with ties

to the CCP, contain vulnerabilities that could be exploited for nefarious purposes, so we need to remove them from our networks. This bill is an important step toward securing our networks from the core to the edge.

We are also considering H.R. 2864, the Countering CCP Drones Act; H.R. 820, the Foreign Adversary Communications Transparency Act; and H.R. 1513, the FUTURE Networks Act. These bills would prohibit the FCC from authorizing DJI drones to operate in the United States due to the threat they pose to national security, require the FCC to annually publish a list of entities with ties to China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia that hold an FCC license, authorization, or other authority, and

establish a 6G task force to ensure the U.S.
maintains its wireless leadership internationally.

I want to thank the minority for working with us
in a bipartisan fashion on each of these bills, and I
look forward to advancing these bills for House
consideration.