

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on “Satellite Video 101”
February 13, 2013**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

It's hard to believe the time has already come to revisit the satellite television legislation. For the members on this committee, it has almost become a rite of passage.

Americans now have an endless amount of content available to them and the technology at their fingertips to watch it almost at any time, anywhere, and on any device. Our job is to create an atmosphere where they can do so in a way that respects the investments of the companies that create and distribute that content as well as the underlying economics necessary to make those businesses work. We should do our best to make sure our laws do not prevent willing producers of programming to strike arrangements with willing distributors to reach interested viewers.

The issues surrounding this particular law are by no means easy to grapple, but it is important we do so. The competitive landscape has evolved significantly in the video marketplace, and we must ensure our laws are having their intended effect. If they are no longer needed, they should be eliminated. If they are missing the mark, they should be revised. If they are working well, we should leave them alone. But periodic oversight is essential to making that determination.

This is particularly true of all the laws in the communications sector. Technology is changing this industry at an astonishing rate, and we must work to ensure our laws keep pace, fostering continued growth in the innovation era. Indeed, while it certainly makes for more work, we should consider using sunset provisions more often.

But these are larger questions to discuss along the way. The focus of today's hearing is what the law requires now. I look forward to the testimony.

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