

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Joe Barton
Chairman Emeritus, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Mark Up: Affirming the Policy of the United States Regarding Internet
Governance”
April 10, 2013**

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to see the steps that the Committee is taking to address the importance of keeping our Internet free from governmental regulations. I have been a long supporter of protecting our Internet and will continue to do so.

Last Congress, I supported S.Con.Res. 50 when it passed the House floor. This bipartisan, bicameral resolution was important because it sent a clear message to the United Nations that our country sees the value of an internet free from governmental control and with that resolution, we boldly declined to sign the treaty.

Now, instead of only addressing the happenings at the World Conference on International Telecommunications, the Chairman has put forth a broader statement for consideration that would ensure the Internet’s protection from all international regulatory bodies. I strongly believe that this legislation needs to become law because I am in no way supportive of governmental control of our Internet.

The Internet has become a thriving force in this country and I believe that Congress should pass clear measures to ensure that it remains that way. While I did support past resolutions that stated America's position, I believe that we need to do more. Before us, we have a draft bill that further clarifies America's stance on international bodies regulating our Internet, and it is imperative that we pass this bill.