

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Markup of the Discussion Draft to Reauthorize the Satellite Television Extension and
Localism Act
March 25, 2014**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

I fully support this discussion draft. More than 1.5 million satellite television subscribers will lose access to the broadcast programming they enjoy today if we do not reauthorize STELA. We can't afford to fail them. With this in mind, I am pleased to say that both Republicans and Democrats have agreed to advance this discussion draft to the full Energy and Commerce Committee.

The bipartisan amendment that will be offered today makes the kind of small changes that can make a world of difference. The changes to the CableCARD integration ban provisions will repeal the costly and unnecessary integration ban, and will preserve the FCC's ability to adapt to changing technology. I'd like to thank the champion of this issue, Bob Latta, for his hard work and insight. It's this kind of effort that we hope to bring to the rest of the Communications Act in our CommActUpdate – recognition of what needs to stay and what needs to be tossed out.

Similarly, an agreement to make the symbolic gesture of placing brackets around the text of section four shows our commitment to working toward a bipartisan agreement on that provision. Make no mistake, I remain committed to the ideas in section four. All federal agencies have a duty to obey the law and the FCC has failed to do so. It must complete its required review of media ownership rules and it should not move forward on restricting broadcast sharing arrangements until it completes its review. This should be a bipartisan sentiment and I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues to find an agreement that will ensure that the FCC complies with the law.

Today's vote is an important milestone and I thank Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Eshoo and the staffs for their hard work. I know we have more work to do, but you've set the right tone to bring us to common ground. The discussion draft in its current form reflects good policy, as well as hard-won consensus among a large number of stakeholders. A bipartisan approach will give us all the best chance of reauthorizing this "must-pass" bill, and I am pleased with the progress we have made in that endeavor.

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