

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on “FCC Reauthorization: Improving Commission Transparency –
Part II”
May 15, 2015**

The quality of our rules and laws are judged as much by the process under which they are produced as by the substance of their words. Our best work comes through an open, transparent, and accessible process – whether in the halls of Congress or the caverns of the federal bureaucracy. Too often of late, however, the work of the FCC has been marred by opacity and gamesmanship. Information on the commission’s process has been relegated to after-the-fact press statements – leaving us all guessing how the FCC makes decisions. As a result, trust in those decisions has suffered.

Oversight of the commission and dedication to ensuring the highest standards of conduct from commissioners has long been a hallmark of the Energy and Commerce Committee. That work continues with a bill to reform FCC processes generally, sponsored by Subcommittee Chairman Greg Walden and Ranking Member Anna Eshoo, as well as three draft bills offered by Democratic members of this subcommittee. This subcommittee has always fostered bipartisanship, and it is extremely encouraging that we are able to strengthen this tradition today.

I applaud my Democratic colleagues for joining us in calling for improved transparency and better process at the FCC. I firmly believe that we can and will make the commission a more efficient and accountable agency.