

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on “Promoting Broadband Infrastructure Investment”
July 22, 2015**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Communications and commerce have never been easier, thanks to the networks that comprise the Internet. As a world leader in broadband, we take for granted what an expensive and immensely challenging task it is to build, maintain, and upgrade the networks necessary to drive the modern information society. There is an incredible infrastructure that makes tasks that once took hours and even days as simple and as instant as a click or a swipe. In Michigan and across the country, we all are reaping the benefits. But if we, as a country, are to continue our leadership in the global technology industry, we must have policies that promote investment in the infrastructure to support it.

This committee has always encouraged and promoted the deployment of communications facilities, and I am glad we have witnesses with such different backgrounds providing their unique insights today. My hope is that the discussion today will shed light on challenges to the economics of broadband networks and ideas that will help us replicate conditions that have already led to successful broadband deployment.

###