

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Hearing on “Continued Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”  
July 28, 2015**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

With communications and technology issues touching nearly every part of our 21st century economy, these sectors need a fair, consistent, and transparent regulator. I think it's a good sign when we're having a healthy debate about the tough questions before the commission – it means the system is working. On the other hand, recent breakdowns in collegiality and last-minute data dumps into the record erode and needlessly distract from the commission's important work.

A number of significant decisions were considered in the past year, and even more are on the horizon. For example, there is substantial work that must be completed before the incentive auction can take place. Proposals about the auction, such as the proposed duplex gap, have raised concerns among all participants that, without appropriate resolution, could threaten the auction's success.

Real reforms, including a funding cap, must be made to the Universal Service Fund to ensure ratepayer dollars are spent wisely and the program is sustainable for years to come. Additionally, the chairman's plan to start a rulemaking on the commission's privacy authority under the new net neutrality rules represents fertile ground for the temptation of agency overreach – a temptation that must be resisted. How the commission addresses these issues will tell us whether real progress is obtainable.

As we continue our oversight of the Federal Communications Commission, I remain concerned that little has improved since our last oversight hearing in March. Our work to institute real process reforms has traversed multiple chairmen and comes from our desire to guide the agency in a direction that works for the American people and enhances innovation, investment and jobs creation.

It has been my hope that working together we can make the FCC a shining example of an effective, transparent, and apolitical government agency. As a Cubs fan, I still have hope. An FCC at its best is one that will benefit folks in Michigan and across the country as we continue to innovate and create jobs in the 21st century.

I look forward to Chairman Wheeler and Commissioner Pai's take about how we can make that happen. The American people and our nation's economy deserve better than what we have seen. Let's make sure they get it.

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