

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Hearing on “Breaking Down Barriers to Broadband Infrastructure Deployment”  
October 28, 2015**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

We all know that robust infrastructure is the skeleton for a healthy economy. This is true for transportation, for energy, and unquestionably for communications, an industry where the pace of consumption is growing exponentially. Folks in Michigan, like all Americans, have a near insatiable appetite for all the information, products and services the Internet has to offer. To keep up with the ever-growing demand of a flourishing sector of the economy, broadband communications providers must build and innovate constantly.

But we can't build efficiently if we get in our own way. The government permitting process has stymied transportation networks, energy networks, and communications networks. Both Presidents Bush and Obama have recognized the maze of red tape that infrastructure builders must navigate in order to build into the backbone of our national economy. Both presidents have also attempted to cut back the endless reviews, requirements, and requests that hinder efficient, timely, and economic deployment of communications infrastructure. It's time for this committee to put the pedal to the metal and improve government permitting for broadband networks.

This is a bipartisan effort. That's always been the hallmark of this subcommittee. Both Democrats and Republicans have been at the drafting table together to think through good policy and put them into actionable laws. I hope that we can continue this effort to help our nation's communications networks thrive and continue to contribute to our success in the global economy.

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