



COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATS  
**ENERGY & COMMERCE**  
RANKING MEMBER FRANK PALLONE, JR.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for delivery  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Hearing on “Breaking Down Barriers to Broadband Infrastructure  
Deployment”**

Thank you Chairman Walden for calling this hearing. I will keep my remarks short so we can hear from some other members who also care deeply about these issues.

Consumer demand for high-speed broadband continues to surge. To meet this consumer demand, we must continue to invest in the networks that carry our data.

As we can see here today, discussions about whether to invest in infrastructure do need to have two sides. Our priority should never be whether to invest in infrastructure; it should be only how we invest.

And the best way to build a sound infrastructure is to ensure that both industry and the government are working together. The bills we are considering today demonstrate how this is done. I thank the authors of all of today’s bills for their efforts and dedication to meeting consumer demand and doing it the right way.

But our work is not done. Because more and more of our communications needs are going wireless. And when it comes to wireless networks, infrastructure is only half the story. But for wireless networks to handle consumer traffic, we also need spectrum.

The budget agreement that we are considering would direct the auction of 30 megahertz of spectrum for commercial use. That is a good start, but we cannot stop there. We should continue our bipartisan work in this committee to authorize more spectrum auctions going forward.

By continuing these twin efforts to improve network infrastructure and to free more spectrum, I believe we can meet consumers’ communications needs for years to come. And by working in a bipartisan fashion, we can show the country that their government can still work for them.

I yield the rest of my time to Representative Loeb sack.

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