

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on “Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”
November 17, 2015**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Two years ago, the Energy and Commerce Committee welcomed a newly sworn in Chairman Wheeler to this very hearing room. Our message then for the new Chairman and the entire commission was short and sweet: given the FCC’s jurisdiction over one of the most important sectors of our economy – the decisions that they would make would be critical to innovation, jobs, and our nation’s global leadership in technology. And today, our request is just as simple: in executing its functions, the agency must operate with openness and transparency for the benefit of American consumers and job creators.

Unfortunately, notwithstanding our clear and numerous concerns, the FCC has been plagued at times by process failures and a lack of healthy and honest policy debate. Ultimately, this has produced uncertainty in the market harming our economy and the robust communications sectors’ ability to create the jobs Americans need.

There remain many significant matters to be decided by the commission. These are opportunities for the FCC to get back on track, to demonstrate its commitment to process reform and return to the bipartisan policy-making that was once a hallmark of the FCC. What you collectively do together, matters – to folks in Michigan and across the nation whose daily lives have been transformed by technology. And if the process can be improved, we will all be better for it.

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