

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on “Legislative Hearing of Four Communications Bills”
January 12, 2016**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Reducing red tape and making the law work for consumers and small businesses has been a focus of this committee under my chairmanship. Today, this subcommittee will hear from a panel of witnesses on four bills that further this important goal in the communications and technology sectors so vital to continued economic growth and job creation in Michigan and across the country.

H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2015 and H.R. 1301, the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015, are both focused on protecting consumers. Whether it is the abuse of technology by bad actors or the abuse of powers provided by law, consumers deserve honesty and a fair shake. These bills are designed to provide just that. H.R. 2669, introduced by Reps. Meng, Barton, and Lance, would extend the provisions of the Truth in Caller ID Act to text messaging and VoIP services – helping protect consumers from fraud. And H.R. 1301, authored by Rep. Kinzinger, would ensure that those empowered to impose land-use restrictions don't place unnecessary bans on HAM radio equipment.

Additionally, we'll discuss two bills designed to protect consumers and small businesses from future FCC Chairmen. H.R. 2666, Representative Kinzinger's No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act and a discussion draft offered by Chairman Walden would ensure that the commitments of this administration against regulating rates or unduly burdening small businesses have staying power. These are both ideas that were generated by the FCC, this legislation would simply make them permanent. I thank the witnesses for their testimony.

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