

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Markup of “H.R. 2666, No Rate Regulation of Broadband Internet Access Act, H.R.
1301, Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015; and, H.R. __, Small Business Broadband
Deployment Act”
February 10, 2016

(As Prepared for Delivery)

With these three commonsense proposals, our work continues to protect consumers and small businesses from burdensome regulation.

The Small Business Broadband Deployment Act will help relieve small businesses from the burdensome enhanced disclosure requirements in the FCC’s Open Internet order. These small providers’ resources are better spent on deploying, maintaining, and upgrading networks to serve consumers, as well as hiring new employees, rather than on hours of unnecessary regulatory paperwork.

We’re also considering legislation that would codify the commitments of the administration and the FCC to refrain from regulating broadband rates. It’s vital that these promises are put into statute, so that consumers and broadband providers have the kind of certainty that promotes investment and innovation.

Finally, we will vote on a bill that protects the rights of amateur radio operators from inappropriate private restrictions on equipment. Ham radio is a valuable communications tool, particularly in times of emergency. Operators should not be burdened by private land restrictions that unnecessarily prohibit this activity.

I’m proud of this committee’s legacy of bipartisan efforts, and I’m optimistic that we will reach bipartisan agreement on these bills that will protect consumers, small businesses, and operators and providers of communications services in Southwest Michigan and across the country.

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