

OPENING STATEMENT

CONGRESSMAN KEVIN CRAMER

Energy and Commerce Committee

Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

*Oversight of the Federal Communications
Commission*

Chairman Wheeler, Commissioner Clyburn,
Commissioner Rosenworcel, Commissioner Pai,
and Commissioner O'Reilly

Thank you for joining us today at this FCC
oversight hearing to discuss the many
important issues being considered at the FCC.

Since there are so many members here today, I'll keep my comments brief.

As an at-large representative of a rural state, and as a former public service commissioner of 10 years for North Dakota, many of the issues being raised today hit home for me in more ways than one. For this reason, I'd like to raise a number of issues related to rural-specific areas.

First, I'd like to discuss the ongoing issue of call completion in my state. While many may think this issue is dead in 2016, I am told completion problems are still occurring.

Earlier this month, my staff met with Tyler Kilde of Griggs County Telephone Company in Enderlin, North Dakota – a town of less than one thousand people located an hour outside of Fargo.

Mr. Kilde informed my staff that it is not uncommon for him to have five complaints a month relating to call completion. Following this hearing, if your staff could please update me on the latest information at the FCC related to call completion, I'd appreciate it.

Second, I'd like to express my concerns for the cable set top box NPRM and its implementation of the "AllVid" approach. The rule severely harms copyright and content providers by forcing their product to be handed over without their consent. It also forces a multichannel video programming distributor (MVPD) to hand over viewing data without the consumers consent and allows a 3rd party device to use that data without consent.

I am particularly concerned about the impacts these costly rules would have on smaller video providers. Since the rules require MVPDs to re-engineer their systems to send information to

3rd party boxes, smaller providers will be disproportionately impacted by these rules due to their lack of staff and resources. For these reasons and others, I strongly oppose these rules and I hope the FCC will reconsider their current approach.

Lastly, I'd like to bring up the FCC's proposed rules on online privacy, which would place additional requirements on Internet services providers.

According to a recent study from former Clinton Administration privacy expert Peter Swire, the rise of encryption protocols such as HTTPS is increasingly reducing the amount of accessible information available to Internet service providers.

With 42 of the top 50 websites now using default encryption, and with 70 percent of all Internet traffic expected to be encrypted by the

end of 2016, I am unconvinced that the FCC's proposed privacy rules on ISPs will do anything more than add additional rules to an industry, which has already seen its fair share of regulations in the past several years. I would hope you'll reconsider your efforts on this issue as well.

Thank you again for testifying today and I look forward to hearing your responses on these important issues.