

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
**Hearing on “Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”**  
**March 22, 2016**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Chairman Wheeler and members of the commission, welcome back. Last November the House passed by voice H.R. 2583, the FCC Process Reform Act, a testament to our bipartisan commitment to solidify the FCC as a model of openness, transparency, and collegiality. This committee has pursued FCC process reform on a bipartisan basis going back to the 112th Congress and I am proud of our continued efforts to improve the function and transparency of our government.

Underscoring the need for this legislation are the continued reports of process failures and divisive partisanship at the FCC. The FCC is the steward of one of the most vibrant and innovative sectors of our national economy. Significant matters remain before it and the stakes are extremely high. The communications and technology sectors are among our nation’s most precious economic assets - the pinnacle of innovation and something that we should rightly be proud of.

Given the stakes, two of the FCC’s most recent proposals are cause for concern. The Chairman has recently presented his colleagues with a proposal to impose new requirements on the video subscription market and a new privacy regime for Internet service providers. These proposals have the potential to harm the very sectors they are attempting to preserve and stimulate. The Commission should look with a skeptical eye at calls to regulate part of a market at the request of competitors.

As the Chairman seeks to implement what is likely the final year of his agenda, it is no less important now that matters are addressed through a process that is open and transparent, informed through robust debate, and resolved through bipartisan compromise. These were procedures that once proudly set the FCC apart, and should be returned to. It is only through this approach that we can avoid the uncertainty and threat to investment and jobs creation that a flawed process promises to deliver.

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