

**Opening Statement for Rep. Doris Matsui  
Energy & Commerce Telecom Subcommittee  
Legislative Hearing on Seven Communications Bills**

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Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased we are discussing my Spectrum Challenge Prize Act of 2015 today.

Spectrum has become an increasingly valuable resource due to the growing demands of our modern mobile economy it is the invisible infrastructure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

My Challenge Prize legislation which I introduced with Senator Tom Udall would encourage wireless innovation by creating a federal spectrum challenge prize.

The spectrum challenge competition would help incentivize innovators and entrepreneurs to develop technologies that eclipse the current state-of-the-art.

Challenge prizes have a long track record of spurring innovation from early navigation efforts to more recent driverless car technology.

The U.S. has always been a global leader in wireless technologies, but we need to continue to innovate in order for our wireless economy to continue to grow.

The Spectrum Challenge Prize Act creates a new opportunity for the federal government and the private sector to work collaboratively in the pursuit of a spectrum efficiency breakthrough which is ultimately a victory for American consumers.

While I'm pleased we are considering my Spectrum Challenge Prize bill, I'm disappointed that my Republican colleagues are using today's hearing to attack the Lifeline program.

Two weeks ago, the FCC took a major step forward in our efforts to close the digital divide. Lifeline will support broadband connectivity and help low income households get and stay connected to the communications services they need to participate in the 21st century economy.

Just as we are celebrating this progress for struggling families across the country, our Republican colleagues bring up legislation to take us backwards. A cap on Lifeline only artificially restricts the number of people this program can help.

Mr. Chairman cutting off Lifeline means cutting off economic opportunity for low income Americans. I urge my colleagues to reject any legislation that places a cap on Lifeline.

Thank you and I yield back.