

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Markup of H.R. 2566 and H.R. 2669
September 12, 2016**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Tomorrow the subcommittee will continue its work of putting consumers first by marking up H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act and H.R. 2566, the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act: two bills that will work to hold the bad actors accountable and protect consumers.

The rise of text messaging and voice over Internet protocol services has given way to new forms of communicating. Unfortunately, as our methods of communications evolve and innovate to the benefit of consumers, bad actors have also evolved to consumers' detriment. H.R. 2669 will strengthen the Truth in Caller ID Act by going after lawbreakers who seek to harass and defraud consumers.

We are also moving forward quickly on H.R. 2566. At the legislative hearing last week, we heard from two small business operators who explained how rural call completion issues have real negative impacts on their businesses. We also know that these call completion issues pose a threat to public safety, and can cause important messages to go undelivered. Rural consumers in Southwest Michigan and around the country expect to receive dependable service, but the truth is that they are disproportionately plagued with failed calls and poor call quality. I have heard directly from rural providers in my district as well as local small businesses that this is an issue of great importance and demands action.

Our witnesses expressed support for H.R. 2566 and encouraged us that this bill could produce real results for consumers across rural America. It's time we set higher standards for the integrity of our networks, but more importantly, for the benefit of our constituents. Folks deserve to have the peace of mind that when they pick up the phone; their call will go through.

I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in supporting and advancing these bipartisan, consumer-minded bills to the full committee.

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