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6 MARKUP OF: H.R. \_\_\_\_, A BILL TO AMEND THE

7 COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934 TO REAUTHORIZE

8 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FEDERAL

9 COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, TO PROVIDE FOR

10 CERTAIN PROCEDURAL CHANGES TO THE RULES OF

11 THE COMMISSION TO MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR

12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EFFICIENT

13 DECISIONMAKING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

14 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017

15 House of Representatives

16 Subcommittee on Communications and

17 Technology

18 Committee on Energy and Commerce

19 Washington, D.C.

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23 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 1:00 p.m., in Room

24 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Marsha Blackburn

25 [chairman of the subcommittee] presiding.

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26           Members present: Representatives Blackburn, Lance, Shimkus,  
27           Latta, Guthrie, Olson, Kinzinger, Bilirakis, Flores, Brooks,  
28           Collins, Cramer, Walters, Costello, Walden (ex officio), Doyle,  
29           Welch, Loeb sack, Ruiz, Dingell, Eshoo, Matsui, McNerney, and  
30           Pallone (ex officio).

31           Staff present: Ray Baum, Staff Director; Mike Bloomquist,  
32           Deputy Staff Director; Allie Bury, Legislative Clerk,  
33           Energy/Environment; Karen Christian, General Counsel; Kelly  
34           Collins, Staff Assistant; Robin Colwell, Chief Counsel,  
35           Communications & Technology; Zachary Dareshori, Staff Assistant;  
36           Sean Farrell, Professional Staff Member, Communications &  
37           Technology; Chuck Flint, Policy Coordinator, Communications &  
38           Technology; Adam Fromm, Director of Outreach and Coalitions; Gene  
39           Fullano, Detailee, Communications & Technology; Ali Fulling,  
40           Legislative Clerk, Oversight & Investigations, Digital Commerce  
41           and Consumer Protection; Theresa Gambo, Human Resources/Office  
42           Administrator; Elena Hernandez, Press Secretary; Peter Kielty,  
43           Deputy General Counsel; Tim Kurth, Senior Professional Staff,  
44           Communications & Technology; Lauren McCarty, Counsel,  
45           Communications & Technology; Drew McDowell, Executive Assistant;  
46           Katie McKeogh, Press Assistant; Evan Viau, Legislative Clerk,  
47           Communications & Technology; Jeff Carroll, Minority Staff  
48           Director; Alex Debianchi, Minority Telecom Fellow; Elizabeth  
49           Ertel, Minority Deputy Clerk; David Goldman, Minority Chief

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50 Counsel, Communications and Technology; Jerry Leverich, Minority  
51 Counsel; Miles Lichtman, Minority Policy Analyst; Dan Miller,  
52 Minority Policy Analyst; Tim Robinson, Minority Chief Counsel;  
53 Matt Schumacher, Minority Deputy Press Secretary and Digital  
54 Director; and Andrew Souvall, Minority Director of  
55 Communications, Outreach and Member Services.

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56 Mrs. Blackburn. The Subcommittee on Communications and  
57 Technology will come to order. We are still waiting for Mr. Doyle  
58 to come, but in the interest of time, we are going to go ahead  
59 and begin. And I recognize myself for 3 minutes for an opening  
60 statement.

61 And I do want to welcome each of you here. We are pleased  
62 to arrive at this day and to mark up the discussion draft of the  
63 FCC Reauthorization Act. At the beginning of this Congress, we  
64 made clear that a priority of this committee would be  
65 reauthorizing agencies within our jurisdiction. Today, we start  
66 with the Federal Communications Commission, an agency that has  
67 not been reauthorized in over 25 years. The appropriation level  
68 when the Commission was last authorized was \$109 million. Today,  
69 it is over \$430 million, yet the agency's authorizing statute has  
70 not been revisited.

71 The FCC is charged with the administration of the  
72 Communications Act and other statutes that govern our country's  
73 communications policy. The agency plays an increasingly  
74 important role as society becomes more dependent on technology,  
75 and the authorizing statute needs to be updated to reflect the  
76 current state of the communications marketplace.

77 This subcommittee held an FCC oversight hearing in July,  
78 during which the subcommittee discussed the need to reauthorize  
79 the agency. Since that time, staff, both Democrat and Republican,

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80 has been working on a draft that makes technical changes to the  
81 existing Communications Act and also incorporates a number of  
82 bipartisan measures focused on agency efficiency, transparency,  
83 and public safety.

84 The discussion draft before us today updates the  
85 Commission's application and regulatory fee structure, requires  
86 the Commission to adopt rules governing agency process, and  
87 establishes the independence of the agency's Inspector General.

88 While the draft incorporates many important reforms, we will  
89 continue having discussions with members of this committee about  
90 the inclusion of additional measures before consideration of the  
91 full committee. I look forward to the discussion today and to  
92 advancing this legislation.

93 And at this time, Mr. Pallone, I will recognize you for 3  
94 minutes for an opening.

95 Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Chairman Blackburn. I know that  
96 reauthorizing the Federal Communications Commission has been a  
97 top priority for you and I appreciate you have been open to working  
98 with us on it and the legislation before us today is better as  
99 a result of that bipartisan work. For instance, the Manager's  
100 Amendment includes the bill from Congressmen Welch and Young to  
101 improve call quality for those living in rural America. It  
102 includes the Rural Wireless Access Act from Congressmen Loeb sack  
103 and Costello that will help ensure the FCC in supporting wireless

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104 internet access more efficiently. We have also been able to  
105 incorporate the Improving Broadband Access for Vets Act from  
106 Congressmen McNerney and Kinzinger to ensure that the FCC is doing  
107 all it can to get our veterans on line.

108 The reauthorization bill also includes Congresswoman  
109 Eshoo's Response Act to help first responders find someone when  
110 they call 911, and Congressman Engel's bill that makes sure our  
111 network operators have more relevant cyber threat information.

112 This work is a good start, but we still have critical work  
113 to do before I can support reporting this bill out of the full  
114 committee. We must find a way to include the Viewer Protection  
115 Act in any final FCC reauthorization bill.

116 A number of Democrats have put forward a bill that would make  
117 sure that television viewers or radio listeners will not lose  
118 signal as a result of the FCC's incentive auction. And as we have  
119 seen repeatedly over the past few months, disasters can strike  
120 at any time and when they do, TV and radio broadcasters play a  
121 vital role in providing potentially life-saving information.

122 For instance, right now in Puerto Rico, some broadcasters  
123 have managed to keep their signal going. They are reaching out  
124 to the desperate and telling them where to find the very limited  
125 resources needed for survival and we cannot let these stations  
126 go dark.

127 Unfortunately, funding the repacking of stations is not

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128 enough. People still need to know how to find the new signal.  
129 Currently, the FCC does not have any funding to educate people  
130 about how to reprogram their televisions, so my priority going  
131 forward will be to include sufficient funds to educate consumers  
132 on how to make sure their televisions still work.

133 So as we begin this markup, I urge my colleagues to support  
134 the Manager's Amendment, but I also want to make clear that the  
135 bill should not proceed to a full committee markup until we find  
136 a way to include the Viewer Protection Act. And Madam  
137 Chairman, I just also want to say I was very disturbed to see this  
138 morning the President issue a tweet that seemed to threaten  
139 broadcasters' licenses only because he disagreed with their  
140 reporting. This threat alone could intimidate the press and lead  
141 to skewed and unfair reporting. And so therefore, I am calling  
142 on the FCC Chairman Pai to immediately condemn this unwarranted  
143 attack. I also call on him to announce publicly that he will not  
144 follow through on his orders from the President. Chairman Pai  
145 should not act in any way to undermine free speech or our airways.  
146 I yield back, Madam Chairman.

147 Mrs. Blackburn. The gentleman yields back. At this time,  
148 Chairman Walden, you are recognized for three minutes.

149 The Chairman. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and good  
150 afternoon.

151 Today, we take a positive step forward in our efforts to

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152 modernize America's outdated communications laws by  
153 reauthorizing the Federal Communications Commission, a task that  
154 has not been completed since 1990.

155 Without a doubt, much has changed since the last  
156 reauthorization of the Commission. The last time this agency was  
157 authorized, we were still a year away from the first-ever website,  
158 and cell phones could do little more than make a phone call.

159 Now, we all carry super computers in our pockets and rely  
160 heavily on forms of media that didn't even exist when the agency  
161 was last authorized. Our communications laws continue to lag  
162 behind, one of the many reasons this committee has prioritized  
163 a return to regular order and to reauthorizing agencies within  
164 our jurisdiction.

165 The Discussion Draft before us today makes important changes  
166 to the Commission's fee collection authority and includes a number  
167 of process reforms that will maximize the agency's transparency  
168 and efficiency. The draft also includes a number of bipartisan  
169 measures, including provisions that enhance public safety, ensure  
170 call reliability, and improve broadband coverage data collection.

171 While this draft incorporates many important technical  
172 amendments and policy changes, there are still issues before this  
173 committee that need to be addressed. For example, last month,  
174 we held a hearing on the broadcaster repacking process and heard  
175 about the challenges associated with completing the process on



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176 time and on budget. We hope to have further discussion on these  
177 issues between now and the time this draft is considered by the  
178 full committee.

179 We share in the effort to try and make sure that broadcasters  
180 are appropriately taken care of as the band gets repacked. If  
181 we had only kept the number in there at three billion a head when  
182 we started the process, maybe we wouldn't be facing the challenge  
183 we are today. We got a lot of push back on that.

184 I want to thank the subcommittee colleagues for engaging on  
185 these issues. It is an important piece of our work and as you  
186 know, we are going through agency by agency, program by program,  
187 and doing our authorizing work which is really important for the  
188 committee and the Congress and the American people. With that,  
189 I yield back.

190 Mrs. Blackburn. The gentleman yields back. Mr. Doyle, you  
191 are recognized for 3 minutes.

192 Mr. Doyle. Thank you. And Madam Chair, I want to thank you  
193 for holding this markup and also for working with us to advance  
194 this legislation on a bipartisan basis. This bill represents a  
195 good start and a good-faith effort by the majority to work with  
196 us. My hope is that we can further improve this bill before we  
197 bring it before the full committee.

198 I am proud that we were able to work with the majority to  
199 include a number of bipartisan and democratic initiatives in this

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200 bill. These are sensible policy measures that serve to make  
201 sensible and targeted improvements to the law and people's lives.

202 The majority has rightly seen fit to include language from  
203 Chairman Walden's FCC Process Reform Bill that we have now passed  
204 through the House twice. This bill includes Ms. Eshoo's FCC  
205 Collaboration Act which I and Mr. Shimkus were original  
206 co-sponsors of in the 113th and 114th Congress.

207 We were also able to include a number of bipartisan and  
208 democratic measures from a number of our members including Mr.  
209 McNerney's and Mr. Kinzinger's bill that promotes broadband  
210 internet access for veterans, and a bill from Mr. Loeb sack and  
211 Mr. Costello to improve the FCC's collection of wireless coverage  
212 data, as well as a bill from Ms. Eshoo directing the FCC to take  
213 action on 911 call location accuracy, and a bill from Mr. Engel,  
214 the creation of an inter-agency advisory committee to examine and  
215 report on communication security.

216 Despite all of this good, I still think we have some issues  
217 left to be addressed before we get to full committee. Foremost  
218 among them is addressing the shortfall in the Broadcaster  
219 Relocation Fund. Ranking Member Pallone has put forth his Viewer  
220 Protection Act which I and many of my colleagues support. We need  
221 to act to correct the current shortfall in funding and ensure that  
222 consumers are not harmed because Congress failed to account for  
223 the cost of broadcasters' relocation.

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224           It is critical that we not only fund the relocation itself,  
225 but consumer education about the transition as well. One of the  
226 key lessons of the DTV transition was that the success of the  
227 transition hinged on educated and informed consumers. It is  
228 essential that we can include these provisions as a part of the  
229 final package by the time we reach full committee.

230           And one last thing, I do appreciate the bipartisan work that  
231 we are doing here today, but like Mr. Pallone, I am deeply  
232 concerned by a tweet that the President sent out this morning.  
233 The President threatened NBC and other networks with loss of their  
234 broadcast licenses for the reporting on his administration.  
235 While it is certainly the administration's right to dispute the  
236 veracity of reporting done by the media, it is unacceptable for  
237 the President and the administration to threaten the independence  
238 of the media when they don't like the reporting. With that, I  
239 will yield back.

240           Mrs. Blackburn. The gentleman yields back. Mr. Guthrie,  
241 you are recognized for 1 minute.

242           Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Madam Chairman Blackburn. I  
243 support the work of the committee to reauthorize the FCC. The  
244 technology we are talking about today compared to that to 1990  
245 is astounding, and especially with the explosion of wireless  
246 technology.

247           Getting more spectrum into the pipeline for commercial use

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248 is a top priority of mine as we think about more ways to continue  
249 work with the Commission. And as the chairman knows, under your  
250 leadership, my good friend, Congresswoman Matsui and I have been  
251 working hard to bring more spectrum to market and to spur  
252 efficiency in existing uses.

253 I want to thank the chairman for your statement today that  
254 you support continuing the conversation about spectrum which will  
255 be important to give the FCC the tools they need to make more  
256 spectrum available. And as leaders of the spectrum caucus, we  
257 are already working with stakeholders to identify bands that may  
258 be ripe for commercialization, so we look forward to continuing  
259 to work with you in this effort as well. And I yield back.

260 Mrs. Blackburn. The gentleman yields back. Mr. Loeb sack  
261 for one minute.

262 Mr. Loeb sack. Thank you, Madam Chair. This amendment  
263 includes legislation I introduced, the Rural Wireless Access Act  
264 to make sure we are getting wireless coverage throughout rural  
265 America. I am constantly driving through the 24 counties in my  
266 district in Iowa and I can tell you there are lot of areas where  
267 you cannot get a signal. Right now, the maps the FCC is using  
268 to figure out where to invest resources tells a different story,  
269 that somehow, lo and behold, all of Iowa is getting high speed,  
270 4G LTE wireless coverage. You can ask me or you can ask any of  
271 my constituents and we will tell you that that is simply not the

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272 case.

273 My bill would fix this issue and make sure the FCC is using  
274 accurate data so that our coverage maps are accurate and  
275 investments are going to the areas that need them most. I want  
276 to thank in particular Congressman Costello for working on a  
277 bipartisan basis on this, and Madam Chair, I appreciate your  
278 incorporating this into the larger bill. I am looking forward  
279 to reporting this out of committee and hopefully, we will get it  
280 into the full committee and on to the floor and get it passed.  
281 Thanks so much.

282 Mrs. Blackburn. Absolutely, and you deserve that credit for  
283 being so persistent on this issue.

284 Mr. Flores, you are recognized.

285 Mr. Flores. Madam Chair, thank you for holding this hearing  
286 to reauthorize the FCC. As we have heard several times already  
287 this afternoon, it has been almost 27 years since we last  
288 reauthorized the Commission. In that time, we have seen several  
289 technological advances that stayed light years ahead of the policy  
290 debates here in Washington, mobile tablets and phones to virtual  
291 reality and now driverless cars.

292 Looking forward, I hope that we will focus on providing  
293 encouragement for the deployment of 5G, continue efforts to  
294 revitalized AM radio, and to ensure smooth transitions by all  
295 those affected by the incentive auction. And you have heard this

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296 conversation many times with respect to the incentive auction.

297 Speaking of that auction, the underlying bill's provisions  
298 that would be used to reimburse TV stations inadvertently left  
299 out many radio broadcasters that utilize similar infrastructure  
300 and would be similarly impacted.

301 As we look forward to the solutions on the repack of the TV  
302 spectrum, I hope to work with the committee on consideration of  
303 my bill, the Radio Consumer Protection Act. The bill has a narrow  
304 way to address the reimbursements by adding radio -- and prevents  
305 the oversight of many of our radio stations and listeners who are  
306 being left out of a process that they really don't even benefit  
307 from at all.

308 I thank you for the opportunity to work towards modernizing  
309 FCC and for the time to speak today. And I yield back the balance  
310 of my time.

311 Mrs. Blackburn. The gentleman yields back. Ms. Matsui,  
312 you are recognize for 1 minute.

313 Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Madam Chair. I am pleased that we  
314 are coming together today in a bipartisan manner to reauthorize  
315 the Federal Communications Commission. The issues faced in the  
316 Commission are critical to the advancement of our digital economy  
317 and to our country's prosperity. I hope to continue to work  
318 for the committee on other important priorities as well.

319 As Ranking Member Pallone mentioned, we need to ensure that

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320 our local broadcasters have the resources they need to transition  
321 following our successful incentive auction. That auction was the  
322 result of diligent, bipartisan work between the committee and  
323 federal agencies to find creative solutions to free up spectrum.

324 Spectrum is a finite resource. With the possibility of 5G  
325 on the horizon, there is no doubt that the spectrum will be  
326 critical to achieving a robust, national network that reaches all  
327 Americans. That is why I join Representative Guthrie introducing  
328 the Federal Spectrum Incentive Act to provide financial  
329 incentives for federal agencies to relinquish any unused spectrum  
330 to be repurposed for commercial use.

331 I look forward to continue to work with the committee on this  
332 legislation and other spectrum initiatives. Thank you and I  
333 yield back.

334 Mrs. Blackburn. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any  
335 other member seeking time? You are recognized, Mr. McNerney.

336 Mr. McNerney. I thank the chairman for her work on this and  
337 the diligent work in the committee. I am glad that we are able  
338 to come together to a bipartisan agreement on reauthorizing the  
339 FCC.

340 The amendment in the nature of a substitute being offered  
341 today includes a bipartisan bill that Congressman Kinzinger and  
342 I introduced. The provision will set us on a path of working to  
343 close the digital divide for veterans. Having broadband internet

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344 connection helps veterans to apply for jobs and helps obtain  
345 vocational training. It helps them communicate with friends and  
346 family and have access to Veterans Administration services.

347 My provision directs the FCC to examine the current state  
348 of broadband access and what can be done to increase that access.  
349 It asks the Commission to focus on low-income veterans and  
350 veterans residing in rural areas, both of which face a higher  
351 likelihood of not having broadband internet service. This  
352 measure was passed in the House last year with overwhelming  
353 support.

354 I thank the chairs and ranking members for working with me  
355 and with Mr. Kinzinger to include this language in the amendment  
356 before us today. I yield back.

357 Mrs. Blackburn. The gentleman yields back. There being no  
358 other members wishing to give a 1 minute opening -- oh, we have  
359 one more. Ms. Eshoo, I am so sorry. I didn't see you. You are  
360 recognized for one minute.

361 Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I am glad that we  
362 have come together to reauthorize the FCC, something Congress  
363 hasn't done, hasn't accomplished since 1991. So today is an  
364 important day.

365 And I want to thank you, Madam Chairwoman and your staff for  
366 working with us to include a number of important priorities in  
367 this bill.



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368           The reauthorization includes legislation I introduced last  
369 Congress, the Response Act, requiring the FCC to complete a  
370 proceeding within 18 months to ensure that all 911 calls including  
371 those made using a multi-line telephone system provide the precise  
372 location of a 911 caller to first responders.

373           We learned, we know that when someone calls 911, first  
374 responders have to know exactly where an individual is calling  
375 from, especially if the caller is unable to communicate to the  
376 dispatcher or the caller simply doesn't know where they are. This  
377 is an issue the FCC has been studying since 1994. It is a priority  
378 that John Shimkus and I, the founders of the NG911 Caucus, have  
379 been working on for a long time.

380           I want to thank Chairman Walden, who committed to working  
381 with me to ensure that the FCC completed a proceeding on location  
382 accuracy, and he has kept his promise. And that is included in  
383 this bill.

384           Just one more thing, the FCC Collaboration Act, I don't know  
385 many Congresses I have introduced that in, it is the sunshine law.  
386 And that is also included, so maybe this is the magic year for  
387 that.

388           So thank you, Madam Chairwoman and I yield back.

389           Mrs. Blackburn. Let us hope it is the magic year for getting  
390 some of these things across the finish line.

391           You are recognized, Mr. Ruiz. Go ahead.

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392 Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Chairwoman. First, I want to thank  
393 you, Chairwoman Blackburn, for your commitment to working on this  
394 important reauthorization in a bipartisan manner. Together, we  
395 have many ideas that will improve reliability, access, and  
396 security. We truly work best when we work together.

397 I filed several amendments to the bill today that I believe  
398 can receive bipartisan support and will further improve this bill  
399 and I appreciate your commitment to working to making sure that  
400 we include some of these afterwards.

401 First, which is based on my bill, H.R. 1581, the Tribal  
402 Digital Access Act, would help close the digital divide through  
403 Indian country by codifying and reinforcing the importance of FCC  
404 programs for the Universal Service Fund that tribal communities  
405 can use.

406 Your staff have been working with my office in a good-faith  
407 manner to refine the bill and secure the support of the Commission  
408 and I thank them for their hard work as well. Please relay that  
409 to your staff, Chairwoman.

410 I hope we can continue to work together so that this  
411 legislation maybe included when this bill is considered in the  
412 full committee.

413 The next amendment would call on the FCC to study and publish  
414 a set of best practices for wireless operators to consider as they  
415 rebuild and as they build for a future with more and more severe

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416 storms. So hurricane kind of resiliency for some of these  
417 infrastructure developments that we need.

418 And finally, the last amendment would ensure tribal  
419 representation on the FCC Federal and State Joint Board on  
420 Universal Services.

421 So in closing, thank you very much. I look forward to making  
422 sure that the tribes have a voice at the table at all times. Thank  
423 you.

424 Mrs. Blackburn. The gentleman yields back and now at this  
425 point the chair will call up the discussion draft and ask the clerk  
426 to report.

427 The Clerk. Discussion draft, to amend the Communications  
428 Act of 1934 to reauthorize appropriations for the Federal  
429 Communications Commission to provide for certain procedural  
430 changes to the rules of the Commission to maximize opportunities  
431 for public participation and efficient decisionmaking and for  
432 other purposes.

433 Mrs. Blackburn. Without objection, the first reading of the  
434 bill is dispensed with and the bill be open for amendment at any  
435 point. So ordered.

436 The chair now recognizes herself for the purpose of offering  
437 an amendment in the nature of a substitute. And the clerk will  
438 report the amendment.

439 [The amendment of Mrs. Blackburn follows:]

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441 \*\*\*\*\*INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

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442           The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to the  
443 discussion draft offered by Mrs. Blackburn.

444           Mrs. Blackburn. Without objection, the reading of the  
445 amendment is dispensed with and the chair recognizes herself in  
446 support of the amendment. I can assure you all we will go quickly  
447 because we have about 8 minutes left, 7 minutes left now.

448           And this is a bipartisan amendment. It demonstrates the  
449 willingness of both parties to come together in agreement on  
450 important policy issues and I do thank all members of the  
451 subcommittee and their staffs for their engagement.

452           This amendment builds upon existing bipartisan legislation  
453 addressing process reforms that the House passed earlier this  
454 year. These process reforms ensure the FCC continues to improve  
455 the sufficiency and transparency. It includes a number of  
456 additions aimed at improving communications' reliability and  
457 public safety: the SANDY Act, which requires the FCC to conduct  
458 a study on the feasibility and benefits of making WiFi access  
459 points available to the general public for access to 911 services  
460 during times of emergency. It also includes Kari's Law, another  
461 bipartisan bill aimed at access to 911 services. In  
462 addition to process reforms, the amendment recognizes the  
463 importance of cyber security in carrying out the FCC's mission,  
464 elevates the role of the chief information officer.  
465 Specifically, the CIO now has a significant role in the

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466 decision-making process for planning, programming, and  
467 budgeting.

468 This amendment also incorporates the bipartisan work of Mr.  
469 Loeb sack and Mr. Costello to bring wireless coverage to rural  
470 areas. The Rural Wireless Act takes a big step in the right  
471 direction.

472 We have the FCC Consolidated Reporting Act, the Amateur Radio  
473 Parity Act, the Anti-Spoofing Act, the Improving Rural Call  
474 Quality Act. These are all measures that the committee has  
475 previously considered and have passed the House on a bipartisan  
476 basis.

477 We are going to continue working to incorporate additional  
478 provisions before consideration of the full committee including  
479 measures on spectrum and regulatory relief. And I look  
480 forwarding to advancing the legislation to the full committee and  
481 I thank my colleagues for their support.

482 Are there others wishing to speak on the amendment? Mr.  
483 Latta, you are recognized.

484 Mr. Latta. Thank you, Madam Chair, and I move to strike the  
485 last word.

486 Mrs. Blackburn. The gentleman is recognized.

487 Mr. Latta. Thank you, Madam Chair. I support the  
488 committee's efforts to reauthorize the Federal Communications  
489 Commission. However, I believe an important provision is

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490 missing, H.R 3787, the Small Entity Regulatory Relief Opportunity  
491 Act, SERROA. I introduced this legislation, along with Mr.  
492 Schrader, to help alleviate small businesses from burdensome  
493 regulations.

494 The telecommunications and technology sector is known for  
495 innovation and start ups. The small companies generate much of  
496 this creativity. These smaller businesses do not require the  
497 same level of regulatory oversight as large entities. In fact,  
498 heavy-handed regulations often hinder small entities which both  
499 Congress and the FCC have previously recognized.

500 Our legislation would offer relief to permit small entities  
501 to grow, innovate, and hire new employees by streamlining and  
502 expediting the FCC's existing waiver process. Directing the FCC  
503 to streamline procedures will benefit small businesses and their  
504 customers providing greater certainty, truer costs, and  
505 administrative efficiency. SERROA would also require the FCC to  
506 offer small entities with a one-year deferral on new regulations  
507 with some exceptions.

508 Additionally, the FCC as part of its triennial review would  
509 review existing regulations applicable to small entities and  
510 determine if any relief should be granted. This is a commonsense  
511 proposal.

512 Small businesses are the engines of our economy, creating  
513 two out of every three jobs. Our focus should be to ensure that

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514 we are creating a regulatory environment that encourages  
515 innovation, spurs competition, and fosters consumer choice.

516 Again, I would ask the chair that we could work together on  
517 including Mr. Schrader's and my proposal and the underlying bill  
518 before it comes to a full markup and the full committee markup.

519 I thank the chair and I yield back the balance of my time.

520 Mrs. Blackburn. The gentleman yields back, and yes, we will  
521 continue to work on this issue and we appreciate your bringing  
522 it to the committee's attention.

523 Are there others seeking to speak on the amendment? Are  
524 there any other amendments, bipartisan amendments? No.

525 Mr. Doyle is ready to roll. I hear it. And I can just draw  
526 this out all day long if I wanted to, right?

527 If there is no further discussion, the vote occurs on the  
528 amendment in the nature of a substitute.

529 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

530 All those opposed, no.

531 The ayes have it and the amendment in the nature of a  
532 substitute is agreed to.

533 The question now occurs on forwarding the discussion draft  
534 to the full committee as amended.

535 All those in favor say aye.

536 All those opposed, no.

537 The ayes have it and the bill is agreed to.



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538           With that we will at this time, without objection staff is  
539           authorized to make technical and conforming changes to the  
540           legislation approved by the subcommittee today. So ordered.  
541           Without objection, this subcommittee stands adjourned.

542           [Whereupon, at 1:32 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]