

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
**Hearing on “The Race to 5G and its Potential to Revolutionize
American Competitiveness”**
Subcommittee Ranking Member Mike Doyle (D-PA)
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
November 16, 2017

Thank you Chairman Blackburn for holding this hearing and thank you to all of the witnesses for appearing before us.

I believe that 5G holds a lot of promise and a lot of potential to drive American innovation, competitiveness, and productivity. But before I get into that, there are a few matters that I think need to be mentioned related to the FCC and their Open Meeting today, and reports of their plans to vote to repeal the Open Internet Order as part of next month’s Open Meeting.

In regards to this month’s open meeting agenda, many Members, myself included, have expressed grave concerns about the Chairman’s agenda and the impact that it will have on media ownership, the lifeline program, the ATSC3 broadcast transition, or lack thereof, and the Commission’s item on copper retirement.

Each one of these items is terrible in its own right and will have grave impacts on the public. I would urge the Chairman to delay voting these items and seek bipartisan consensus – and to chart a path forward that benefits all Americans and not just the biggest companies.

In regards to next month's open meeting, and widely reported rumors that Chairman Pai plans to repeal the Open Internet Order, I would tell him to stop and consider the broader consequences. The success of the Internet and the Internet Ecosystem has be based on open access and a level playing field, where consumers can access the services they want, and edge providers can access customers without having to get permission from gatekeepers or having to pay tolls. Removing these rules removes this essential protection – and threatens the virtuous cycle of investment and innovation that has made the Internet what it is today.

Putting that aside, and to the matter at hand – 5G.

Next generation wireless networks have incredible potential to revolutionize our economy and our way of life. Think back to 2007 and the 700 Mega-hertz auction. The iPhone had just been introduced, but the promise of smartphone technology and ubiquitous high speed access was still a dream. When Steve

Jobs announced the iPhone, it had to be connected to Wi-Fi because 3G networks at the time weren't responsive enough. But today, nearly 80% of Americans' own smartphones and the global App economy has growth to be worth more than \$1.6 trillion a year globally.

In the same way that LTE has put the internet in our pockets, -G has the potential to connect every aspect of our lives – from smart transportation and self-driving vehicles, to connected medical devices and predictive diagnosis, to virtual and augmented reality; the promise of 5G has the potential to bring these technologies into reach.

But to get to this promised land and bring the future into the present, we need to chart a course that facilitates this technology by making new spectrum available and easing the deployment of new wireless infrastructure. My hope is that we can advance bipartisan legislation to free up additional spectrum to meet the needs of the licensed and unlicensed industries.

On the other hand, I've seen draft legislation in the Senate, proposals at the state level, and heard rumblings from the FCC and their Broadband Deployment Advisory Council, that all seek to pre-empt local government with a heavy hand.

To me these approaches are all stick and no carrot. We need an approach that is collaborative, and we need to bring state and local governments into these discussions in a more productive way.

I'm happy to see a representative from San Jose here today. Reading your testimony, I see that your city has big plans: self driving vehicles, smart infrastructure, and using technology to meet the challenges you face. I'm proud to say we've been doing all this in Pittsburgh for a while now – and I'm glad to see Silicon Valley finally catching up.

My point is that great innovation is happening in cities across the country, and local governments in cities like Pittsburgh, San Jose, and so many others have risen to meet these challenges. They don't need someone to run rough-shod over them; they need partners that will help them meet the needs of their citizens.

I believe there is much this Committee can do to facilitate the deployment of 5G and wireless broadband. My hope is that we can do so in a thoughtful and inclusive way.