Opening Remarks of Vice Chairman Leonard Lance
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on Race to 5G and American Competitiveness
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Thank you Madam Chairman and welcome to our distinguished panel. Thank you for being with us here today.

Wireless services have come a long way over the last fifty years. The jump in capabilities from the first iteration of cellular technology, developed largely from the work done at Bell Labs in New Jersey, to the current 4th Generation LTE has been immense. However, these past innovations pale in comparison to the potential 5G has to revolutionize wireless communications. From improved data rates and speeds for consumers, to commercial applications in industries such as health care, agriculture, energy, education and manufacturing, 5G's potential applications are almost limitless.

As countries around the globe compete to lead in 5G, the district I serve is a hub of 5G development, thanks to the companies such as Verizon, AT&T, Nokia, Qualcomm and Samsung. Because of companies like these, New Jersey is leading the effort to maintain the United States as the leader in wireless innovation.

American companies have already invested billions of dollars into 4G LTE and as they continue to invest in 4G, they have promised to invest hundreds of billions more in 5G. According to a recent report by Accenture, Americans will use five times more mobile data in 2021 than they do now. 5G has the potential not only to help networks manage this unprecedented data demand, but also to add over 3 million jobs in the next seven years and support 22 million jobs by the year 2035.

However, private investment alone will not win us the global race to 5G. Policymakers in Congress and the Federal Communications Commission must pursue policies to create regulatory regime that is conducive to the deployment of 5G infrastructure and ensure there is sufficient spectrum available for commercial use to meet future needs. We must help facilitate innovation by fueling the spectrum pipeline and removing regulatory barriers to deployment.

Wireless networks are complex and require a mix of different types of spectrum to meet coverage and capacity requirements. As our demand for wireless connectivity continues to skyrocket, the FCC and Congress must examine spectrum use in high, mid, and low bands.

Thank you again for being with us here today and I look forward to your testimony and discussion on this important topic.