

Committee on Energy and Commerce

Opening Statement

of

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Ranking Member Mike Doyle

Oversight of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration

March 7, 2018

I'd like to thank Chairman Blackburn for holding this important hearing, and I'd like to thank the witness, Administrator David Redl, for being with us here today. As it has been noted Mr. Redl is no stranger to this Committee, having served as counsel and chief counsel for Chairman Walden on this Subcommittee. During his time here, Mr. Redl spearheaded the majority's efforts on spectrum policy and internet governance, and oversaw and directed policy for the full breadth of this Subcommittee's jurisdiction.

And now, after what appeared to be a rather drawn-out confirmation process you have finally taken on the leadership of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration - the agency tasked with serving as principal adviser to President Trump on telecommunications and information policy issues. I wish you the best of luck with this critical and quite challenging task.

That being said, I also understand that you went to Penn State, my alma mater, and while not from Pittsburgh you are married to a Pittsburgher? Is that correct?

Well we can't all be perfect, but it's a step in the right direction.

Again, welcome back.

Our world grows more connected and interconnected by the day. The number of connected devices will exceed the number of people on the planet this year, and research suggests that the number of connected devices will be more than twice the population of the planet by 2020. This incredible growth has been fueled by innovation, investment, and access to wireless spectrum.

The US Government remains the largest spectrum holder in the United States, and NTIA is charged with managing federal spectrum and, as you recently announced, figuring out how to transition additional spectrum to commercial use.

It is critical that as your agency moves forward you balance the needs of the licensed and unlicensed industries. Our leadership in wireless broadband, our success in 4G, and our ability to successfully deploy 5G networks will depend entirely on our ability to make available sufficient spectrum to meet both communities' needs.

NTIA's recent announcement identifying 100 mega-hertz of federal spectrum to study for wireless broadband use is great news, and it's a good example of the valuable role NTIA can

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play in coordinating federal spectrum use. It is also a reminder of how important our federal R&D efforts are in this area.

NTIA's research and engineering arm, the Institute for Telecommunications Sciences located in Boulder, is a critical part of this work.

Having objective researchers and engineers who can work with federal stakeholders to identify ways to free up or share spectrum is critical for meeting our nation's wireless needs, because navigating the tricky waters of interagency cooperation and coordination is difficult at best. I'd also mention that the lab is led by a Carnegie Mellon grad, Keith Gremban.

Beyond spectrum, NTIA plays a key role as an inter-agency and multi-stakeholder convener within in the government and with commercial interests and civil society organizations. NTIA has done good work on cyber security, privacy, I-O-T, and unmanned aircraft. I believe that it is critical that this work continue. We need thoughtful fact-based interagency leadership helping agencies navigate these complicated topics. More work needs to be done in these areas as they go from being nascent innovations to globally deployed technologies and challenges.

Cybersecurity is of particular concern to many. Our nation's digital infrastructure is under constant attack, by adversaries ranging from super powers to script kiddies.

As we move toward 5G and future network technologies, we need to consider better how to bake security into these networks - and how to harden them against attacks and tampering. It is my hope that NTIA can play a role in working with industry and government stakeholders as these networks are being designed and deployed.

Among your additional responsibilities is the United States' role in Internet governance through ICANN. While our nation's role is changing, I expect NTIA to continue representing the United States' interests before the global internet community at ICANN. While, ICANN's multi-stakeholder process can be cumbersome, I hope that NTIA can continue to work through the Governmental Advisory Committee to protect our interests and work to maintain a globally unified and connected internet.

I'm also interested to see NTIA continue its work on BroadbandUSA, digital literacy, and public safety.

Thank you, and I look forward to your testimony.