

Statement for the Record of Rep. Anna G. Eshoo
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Technology, Global Competitiveness, and National Security”
Wednesday, May 17, 2018

Today’s hearing on supply chains is about an issue I go very far back on. I served on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for nearly a decade, and during that time we had close examinations of supply chain manufacturers, including Huawei and other foreign manufacturers, and the serious challenges they represented.

I took these issues seriously more than a decade ago and I still do today. When my term on HPSCI was ending, I specifically asked the then-Chairman Mike Rogers to commit to pressing on the threats to our national security that Huawei presented.

When our country was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, we possessed something that was essential in the age of terrorism – our telecommunications systems. They were and they still are part of the backbone of our national security and intelligence operations.

Fast forward to 2018, when the sophistication of what these technologies can do has increased exponentially, as well as what is manufactured. There is far more that today’s companies in this sector on whom we rely for our communications can know, what other companies have access to, and whom they buy from. And we *know* for a fact, based on years of scrutiny which I was a part of, that certain companies, particularly foreign enterprises, do not have our national interests at heart. Thus, we have no business *doing* business with them. Period.

Congress can prevent this infiltration of our critical communications systems. The number one responsibility of every Member of Congress is contained in our Oath of Office, ‘*protect and defend*’ our citizens from enemies external and internal. We cannot allow foreign entities to compromise our telecommunications sector, because it would create a direct challenge to our national security. I’m bewildered that after so many years of hearings and investigations that we continue to consider whether we should use parts from companies whom we know have adversarial intentions against our country. The answer to this consideration is NO.