

Statement of Chairman Mike Doyle
Hearing on “Accountability and Oversight of Federal Communications Commission”
2123 Rayburn House Office Building
May 15, 2019

Good morning, I’d like to welcome everyone to this subcommittee’s first oversight hearing on the Federal Communications Commission. I’d also like to thank FCC Chairman Pai and the other Commissioners for appearing before us today.

I’m also very happy to welcome Commissioner Starks, both to this hearing and to the Commission. It’s good to have the Commission back up to full strength.

It’s been 9 months since this subcommittee’s last oversight hearing, and while a lot has happened in that time, a lot of the issues that were a concern then remain unresolved today. At our last oversight hearing, I expressed concerns about revelations that mobile carriers were selling location data, the Mobility Fund 2 proceeding, competition policy, and US spectrum policy.

At that time, I expressed concerns to the Commission about reports that mobile wireless carriers were sharing individuals’ real time location data with 3rd parties. Chairman Pai, you told us that you were “investigating” this issue. Today, we still don’t have assurances that these practices have stopped. And since we first heard about this problem, new even more troubling revelations have emerged. Namely, that this data was sold to bounty hunters and god knows who else. Americans don’t know who had access to this data, who sold the data, or whether anyone is going to be held accountable, because we have heard nothing about it yet from the FCC. At this juncture neither Congress nor the American people understand the scope of what happened, and no one has been held accountable for this reckless and illegal practice. The situation as it stands is unacceptable, as has been the lack communication to this Committee and the American people about this situation. We need answers.

9 months ago, I also expressed concerns about the Mobility Fund 2 proceeding. In a way I’m happy the Commission has acknowledged that the process and the data in this proceeding were deeply flawed. However, rural communities around the country remain unserved and these funds remain unobligated. All we have heard from the Commission is that you are “investigating” this issue too. It is my understanding that the Commission has not requested new coverage data from carriers to correct its flawed maps. I don’t know why you’ve waited so long to act to fix this problem, and today we sit here without a resolution in sight.

In the same vein, I expressed concerns about old and faulty data being used to justify Commission decisions regarding competition policy in the Business Data Service market. Today, the Commission is considering using data we all agree to be faulty and misleading, as well as data collected years ago that is long past stale, in a forbearance proceeding by US Telecom. The Commission needs to clean up and update its data before it makes decisions that could seriously hamper the deployment of new fiber, limit consumer choice, and negatively affect government agencies that still rely on legacy infrastructure for national security and public safety services.

As we look to the future of 5-G and the need for more mid-band, much thought is being given to the C-Band. I have seen this band valued as high as \$70 billion. I think making a part of this band available for 5-G service is important for meeting the nation’s mid-band spectrum needs. But given that much of the country has No Gs, shouldn’t we try to use the value of this band to fund the deployment of broadband to unserved areas as well as

to help with adoption and affordability? Simply put, it seems irresponsible and unconscionable to give that money to four foreign satellite companies when the broadband infrastructure needs of our nation are so great.

Finally, on the topic of Robocalls, this problem is out of control. Americans this year will receive 12 billion more robocalls than they received last year. And since the Trump Administration took office Americans have gone from receiving 2 billion calls a month to 5 billion. It's become a game for Members of Congress to get robocalled while they are complaining about robocalls, which happened to Mr. Soto at our last hearing on Robocalls! We are past the point of band-aids. We need real solutions to address this problem, and real protections for the American people.

Thank you again for being here and I look forward to the testimony of our witnesses.

###