

**Opening Statement**  
**Chairman Mike Doyle**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
**“Legislating to Connect America: Improving the Nation’s Broadband Maps”**  
**September 11, 2019**

Good morning.

Before we get started, I’d like to take a moment to remember the lives lost 18 years ago on September 11<sup>th</sup>, and the extraordinary sacrifices made by the police, firefighters, and EMS techs who responded to those horrific attacks as well as those who have fought to keep us safe and keep fighting for our country every day. We owe all of them a tremendous debt.

With that, I’d like to welcome everyone to our first hearing since the August recess. Today’s legislative hearing is titled “Legislating to Connect America: Improving the Nation’s Broadband Maps.”

The Subcommittee will consider 5 pieces of legislation that I believe can help address serious problems with the way the Federal Communications Commission currently collects broadband deployment data.

This is an often-discussed topic here in Congress, and the lack of clear data has often been a sore spot for many of us on the Committee. However, the FCC in coordination with industry stakeholders has been making significant strides to improve the quality of some of these maps, and the bills before the Committee today build on those efforts.

Accurate maps of who does and doesn’t have access to broadband are a critical first step in closing the digital divide. We can’t hope to solve this problem if we don’t know the scope of it - and where to put our resources.

First, we have H.R. 4229, the “Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act,” introduced by Representative Loeb sack and Ranking Member Latta. This bill would dramatically improve the FCC broadband maps by requiring the FCC to collect and disseminate far more granular broadband data for both fixed and mobile services. The bill would also allow the FCC to use crowdsourced data to help verify and supplement carrier-provided data.

Second, we have H.R. 4128, the “Map Improvement Act of 2019,” introduced by Representatives Lujan, Bilirakis, and myself. It would standardize the methodology used for collecting and verifying coverage data provided by providers. It would also establish a new office within the FCC to serve as a central coordinator for the Commission’s mapping efforts.

Third up, we have H.R. 4227, the “Mapping Accuracy Promotes Services Act,” introduced by Representatives McEachin, Long, LoebSack, and Latta. This bill would make it unlawful for a person to submit inaccurate broadband coverage data to the FCC.

Fourth, we will consider H.R. 2643, the “Broadband Mapping After Public Scrutiny Act of 2019,” introduced by Ranking Member Lata and my good friend Congressman Welch. This bill would create a challenge process at the FCC for fixed and mobile broadband coverage data - and allow private entities as well as state, local, and Tribal government entities to verify coverage data submitted to the FCC.

Finally, we will consider H.R. 3162, the “Broadband Data Improvement Act of 2019,” introduced by Representatives McMorris Rodgers and O’Halloran. This bill would update the FCC’s mapping process, establish a public challenge process, and require federal agencies to use the newly created broadband maps to determine the extent and availability of broadband in the United States.

I look forward to the testimony of our witnesses and the discussion about these important bills.

I yield the balance of my time to Congressman LoebSack.

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