

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery  
of  
Member Rep. Jerry McNerney**

***Hearing on “A Safe Wireless Future: Securing our Networks and Supply Chains”***

**June 30, 2021**

I am glad we are having this hearing today, because, as I have watched the wireless communications technologies and networks evolve, I have also felt concerned that our security technologies may not keep pace. Consumer demand, especially now, is driving the growth of wireless devices that can connect to the internet while this country simultaneously faces increasing threats to our networks and supply chains. Vulnerable internet of things devices can be hijacked by bad actors, including foreign adversaries, to target other parts of the network infrastructure, and wireless networks can also be exposed to risk by their own network components.

The risk has grown as we have watched foreign non-trusted companies become major provider in the telecommunications supply chain, both here and around the world. Addressing risks to our supply chains will take more than just industry or just government action to solve. Congress can and should help the industry fortify itself.

Today, we are considering a fair number of bills, and I have co-sponsored almost all of them. Each bill does something different, but they all have a similar aim, which is to gird the nation, its consumers, and the trusted companies we partner with against network and supply chain risk.

First, I am co-leading, along with Representatives Long and Spanberger, H.R. 4028, Information and Communication Technology Strategy Act, which would direct the Secretary of Commerce to report on the economic competitiveness of trusted vendors in the information and communication technology supply chain, identify which components or technologies are critical or vulnerable, and identify which components or technologies U.S. networks can't work without.

Next, I am co-sponsoring H.R. 3919, the Secure Equipment Act of 2021, with Representatives Eshoo and Scalise. The bill would prohibit the FCC from reviewing or approving applications from companies on the Commission's "Covered List," as required under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act.

There are several other bills, all the products of the thoughtfulness of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, that I look forward to hearing about today. Representative Doyle's FUTURE Networks Act will ensure that we stay on top of the policy considerations as wireless services continue to evolve. Representative O'Halleran's Open RAN Outreach bill will help smaller providers stay competitive in the U.S. market by helping them consider their network options. Representative Kinzinger's Cybersecurity Literacy Act will empower families and

June 30, 2021

Page 2

business with information to help keep their digital lives secure. And Representative Schrader's Communications Security Advisory Act will institutionalize an important public-private forum for sharing information and best practices.

I'll let the other sponsors talk about these bills, but in general the reason why I am co-sponsoring these bills is because in one way or another each one either supports our consumers and smaller providers by educating them about risks and threats while also encouraging competition and innovation or pushes the country forward by fostering network security thought-leadership with our agencies performing as a much-needed steady hand at the wheel.

These are important initiatives and will help the country enter the age, not just of 5G, but of 6G and beyond, and do it safely and securely. Thank you and I yield back.