Opening Statement – Chairman Robert E. Latta
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
"Launching Into the State of the Satellite Marketplace"
February 2, 2023

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Before I begin, I would like to make a point of personal privilege to welcome the new members of the subcommittee: Representatives Dunn, Weber, Allen, Balderson, Fulcher, Pfluger, Harshbarger, Cammack, and Obernolte on the Republican side, and Representative Kuster on the Democrat side. I also look forward to working with the new Communications and Technology Vice Chair, Buddy Carter from Georgia.

Lastly, Congratulations toRanking Member Matsui on your election, and I look forward to working with you this Congress. Opening Statement

Good morning and welcome to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology in the 118th Congress. It's a privilege to be here today and to chair our first subcommittee hearing of the year. Thank you to our witnesses for agreeing to testify today on this important topic.

It has been over a decade since this subcommittee held a hearing dedicated to understanding the satellite communications marketplace and the FCC's role in licensing commercial satellite communications systems. Since then, how satellite technology is used has changed drastically.

Our esteemed panel before us has experience across the full range of satellite communications technologies. Satellite technology offers a variety of services spanning high-speed broadband and video delivery, to data services that enable precision agriculture and global financial transactions. This hearing today is the first step this Committee is taking as we look at these novel issues.

In recent years, satellite communications capabilities have dramatically advanced, and satellite operators have identified new ways to serve customers with greater speed and reliability.

Many satellite operators currently operate, or are seeking to operate, different types of satellite constellations. Some satellite systems operate in

geostationary orbit, while others operate closer to Earth in non-geostationary orbit. Satellite operations are also global in nature, which adds an additional layer of complexity when developing and operating systems. Because satellite systems rely on radio spectrum to operate, the use of this spectrum raises complex challenges that U.S. and international regulators must address.

In the last few months, satellite operators and cellular carriers have announced partnerships to stretch connectivity further into rural and remote areas. International standards bodies are also making progress in identifying technical specifications for greater integration of 5G with satellite communications technologies. These are significant

developments that may provide new or enhanced opportunities to connect unserved Americans.

We must also ensure continued American leadership in advanced communications services. In order to do that, our regulations must foster an environment of innovation and certainty. As countries like China seek to dominate the technologies of the future, we must make the United States an attractive place to invest in cutting edge developments that align with American values and guarantee the availability of trusted satellite communications.

The FCC plays an important role in licensing new or enhanced satellite communications systems, and it is important we understand the current

licensing and regulatory process and the impact these rules have on our international competitiveness.

Thank you again to our witnesses for sharing your expertise, and I look forward to today's discussion.