

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Communications & Technology Ranking Member Doris O. Matsui
Markup of 11 Bills, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
July 12, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Latta. Oversight of the NTIA is one of the most crucial functions of this Subcommittee. Since it was last reauthorized more than 30 years ago, the pace of technological innovation has accelerated exponentially.

As our lives become increasingly digital, the importance of this agency has only grown. From spectrum governance to the digital economy, NTIA must be empowered to keep America the vanguard of global tech leadership.

With the bipartisan NTIA Reauthorization Act, we're providing new tools and authority to ensure the agency can keep up with the pace of innovation.

By elevating the NTIA Administrator from Assistant to Under Secretary, we're reinforcing the statutory role of NTIA to speak on behalf of the federal government on important tech issues. And we're modernizing the Agency's mission to reflect the challenges of today and opportunities of tomorrow.

It also includes my Spectrum Coexistence Act which will require NTIA to conduct a review of federal receiver technology to support more intensive use of limited spectrum. The FCC released a set of receiver principles for commercial equipment, and it's important we do the same for federal tech. We can't afford to have outdated equipment, on the commercial or government side, preventing opportunities for more efficient uses of spectrum.

This bill also includes the SMART Act Congressman Guthrie and I introduced to develop an Incumbent Informing Capability. This would allow federal users to share spectrum with commercial users by telling them when and where they're operating in real time.

I'm also glad to see my Spectrum Relocation Enhancement Act on the agenda today. The spectrum relocation fund compensates federal agencies for moving off spectrum to make it available for commercial use. While the fund has been successful, it needs to be modernized. Outdated limitations in the fund are holding it back. This bill addresses that. By allowing agencies to replace their technology with an enhanced capability, they will be more equipped for their missions, be better spectrum neighbors, and have more incentive to participate

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with the fund. Taken together, this bill and the provisions in the NTIA Reauthorization Act will make the federal government a more positive force in maintaining a healthy spectrum pipeline.

But we're also taking steps to ensure NTIA has the tools it needs to continue important work expanding broadband access and increasing cybersecurity. As BEAD investments start to flow to the states, this bill would ensure NTIA is coordinating with the entire federal government on closing the digital divide. We're also reinforcing NTIA's role in promoting cybersecurity in communications technology. As cyberattacks targeting our communications networks grow more frequent and severe, we cannot afford to maintain the status quo. The coordination and collaboration between government, researchers, and industry will better prepare us for the cyber threats on the horizon.

I want to thank Chairman Latta for the partnership on this bill the bipartisan agenda before us today. I'm looking forward to advancing these bills to the full Committee and ultimately the floor.

With that, I yield the balance of my time.