

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Ranking Member Doris O. Matsui

Hearing on “Leveraging AI to Enhance American Communications”

November 14, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Latta.

I’m glad we’re holding this hearing today. While other Energy and Commerce Subcommittees have started to explore AI’s implications in their jurisdictions – I think ours has some of the most pressing. AI is too far reaching a concept to fit neatly into any one congressional committee, but it’s clear that the issues we’ll be discussing today are some of the most foundational.

First and foremost, I think we have an obligation to ensure the United States leads the deployment of this technology on terms that are consistent with our values. To me, that means promoting innovation and competition while establishing new safety, security, and equity standards.

Thankfully the Biden Administration has engaged industry to establish consensus goals and guardrails that will guide AI’s deployment in the United States. President Biden’s recent Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence is a testament to this Administration’s vision. The EO ensures that America leads the way in seizing the promise and managing the risks of AI. It does so by requiring more transparency from developers of foundational models that pose a national economic or security risk. And, it would promote consumer trust by protecting from AI-enabled fraud through new authentication guidance. It would also combat AI bias by addressing algorithmic discrimination through best practices and training.

President Biden’s EO represents one of the most broad and consequential steps toward more responsible AI governance. I look forward to working with the Administration to implement it quickly. And, while it’s clear we need broad, horizontal rules of the road, it’s also important that we explore industry specific vertical applications.

Thankfully, the communications and technology landscape provides ample opportunity. On the telecom front, Chairwoman Rosenworcel has led the charge at the FCC to capture AI’s promise for more efficient and resilient communications networks. Take spectrum efficiency: As demand for our airwaves grows, we’ll need to be more nimble and efficient in managing this limited resource. That’s why the FCC is exploring more intelligent networks with devices that can manage their own transmissions.

Taken together, these advances would mean faster and more capable networks for American consumers. But, despite the progress from the Administration and the FCC, it’s clear that this Subcommittee has a foundational role to play in AI. I’ll be pushing to use our significant jurisdiction to support the responsible deployment of AI in areas like spectrum

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management, cybersecurity, online content, and beyond. Because the stakes here couldn't be higher. AI holds the potential to determine who gets to participate and succeed in the 21st Century economy. So, I'm excited about this hearing and appreciate our witnesses for appearing before us.

With that, I yield the balance of my time.