

Opening Statement for Vice Chairman Rick Allen
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Strengthening American Leadership in Wireless
Technology.”

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Guthrie, for yielding, and Chairman Hudson, thank you for holding this important hearing. I’m looking forward to working with both of you this Congress to tackle critical issues like closing the digital divide, fighting robocalls, and strengthening our telecommunications infrastructure.

Access to telecommunications isn’t just a luxury—it’s something Americans depend on every single day. Students need it to finish their homework, folks of all ages – especially in rural communities – rely on it for telehealth visits with their

doctors, and small businesses use it to reach customers and keep their doors open. And let's not forget, we all use it to stay in touch with friends and loved ones.

Additionally, when natural disasters strike, access to reliable communications becomes even more critical. Georgia's 12th District saw firsthand just how devastating this can be when Hurricane Helene wreaked havoc on our communities last September. That storm caused significant damage to our communications infrastructure, leaving our residents unable to call for help, check in with family to let them know they were safe, and in many cases made it impossible to receive helpful updates about accessible resources. Thankfully, we had satellite and other resilient emergency systems in place to help fill the gap while recovery efforts got underway.

Spectrum is absolutely vital for the wireless services and devices we use today—and for the technologies of tomorrow. If we want

to maintain our leadership on the world stage and keep pace with China's advancements, we need to free up more spectrum for both licensed and unlicensed uses. Technologies like precision agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and next-gen wireless services all depend on it.

Again, I look forward to tackling these issues as Vice Chairman of the C&T Subcommittee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.