

Opening Statement of Chairman Brett Guthrie
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Strengthening American Leadership in Wireless Technology

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for bringing us together for this important hearing, and thank you to the witnesses for your participation. I look forward to the work we will do this Congress to close the digital divide, protect our critical infrastructure, and ensure that America is prepared to outcompete the Chinese Communist Party.

I have long been an advocate for a spectrum policy that serves both our national security and American innovation. I served for many years as co-Chair of the Congressional Spectrum Caucus with my good friend, and the subcommittee's Ranking Member, Doris Matsui.

The United States needs a spectrum agenda that enables both big and small American companies to innovate and remain competitive globally. Making more spectrum available for both licensed and unlicensed use is key to achieving that goal and supporting American global leadership. In the United States, private sector innovation in wireless technologies has contributed hundreds of billions of dollars to our economy and has helped connect millions of Americans to reliable, high-speed internet.

Ensuring that the U.S. continues to be a leader in next generation wireless communications technologies will create jobs and unlock new opportunities here at home, as reliable, high-speed connectivity supports a range of cutting-edge applications like artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing. We cannot, and will not, allow adversaries like

the Chinese Communist Party to dominate the 21st technological battle. As China aims to replace America as the preeminent world power, we must protect against CCP attempts to surveil our citizens and infiltrate our networks. But if we invest in homegrown technology, as President Trump said on inauguration day, we will enter a new American golden age defined by builders, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

As a first step, we must reauthorize the FCC's spectrum auction authority, which has been lapsed for nearly two years, and would allow the FCC to make more spectrum available for commercial use and raise revenue for the federal government.

Our Committee is responsible for ensuring that the FCC has the tools it needs to bolster U.S. wireless leadership, and it is imperative that this Committee reauthorize the FCC's auction

authority so they can get back to their important work of making spectrum available for licensed and unlicensed use. This has been a long-standing priority for me and this Committee. And it's been a **bipartisan** priority. It is unacceptable that the FCC's auction authority has been lapsed for nearly two years. I am open to any path forward and making sure we get this done, because this issue is vital for our global leadership.

Second, we must work together with federal agencies and stakeholders to reallocate unused spectrum. The federal government uses spectrum resources for aviation, national security systems, and other critical operations. While those operations are important to protect, these federal licensees are not operating around the clock and in all parts of the country in every band they occupy. The White House and Congress have a

role to play in pushing federal government users to be more efficient with their spectrum.

Third, we need to look at innovative new tools to better utilize and manage spectrum resources. The promise of new technologies will not only streamline these operations, but also enhance the security of ongoing operations and make them more resilient to adversaries.

I'm looking forward to keeping our promise to Americans across the country that we are open for business, and I eagerly anticipate bold leadership across many industries ushering in the next great American century.

I now yield to our Vice Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. Allen, to make a few opening remarks.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.