

**Opening Statement of Chairman Brett Guthrie  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
“Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”**

**January 14, 2026**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Thank you, Chairman Hudson, for holding this important oversight hearing and thank you to the Commissioners for being with us today. It’s great to have you at the Energy and Commerce Committee.

This is an exciting time for the Federal Communications Commission. The Working Families Tax Cuts Act restored the FCC’s spectrum auction authority which had lapsed for more than two years. It also set a target of 800 megahertz of spectrum to be identified and made available for commercial use. These actions will help meet the growing demand for spectrum but also, more importantly, ensure that the U.S. continues to be a leader in 5G and even the developing 6G.

Under the first Trump Administration, the FCC made a significant amount of mid-band spectrum available for licensed use and opened up 1200 megahertz of spectrum for unlicensed use. This strengthened our position as a global technology leader, and American innovators have seized the opportunity.

But in the years ahead, the United States must continue to lead in wireless innovation. Otherwise, adversaries like China will dominate this battle and set their own standards according to the values of the Chinese Communist Party. That is harmful to both our economic growth and our national security. Facing these risks, we must act quickly. I am pleased that the Commission under Chairman Carr has already started implementing aspects of this law and has prioritized security throughout the communications sector.

Another area where the FCC is working to maintain and expand American leadership is in space. Under Chairman Carr's leadership, the Commission has been hard at work modernizing satellite regulations. We have seen significant investment and innovation in space in recent years. Americans have long relied on GPS and other satellite-based communications services, but today, more Americans use satellite services for connectivity at home and on the go. I am pleased that the Commission has made this a priority.

Finally, I have noted several times during this Congress the urgency of updating media regulation to allow regulated industries the opportunity to compete against new platforms, and

specifically big tech companies, who are competing with broadcast and cable companies for advertising revenue and viewership. It is important to remove outdated regulations, and I appreciate Chairman Carr's efforts to modernize these legacy regulatory structures to reduce burdens on incumbent industries.

This is an important time for the FCC. I look forward to hearing from the Commissioners, and I yield back.