

**Opening Statement of Chairman Brett Guthrie
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Securing U.S. Leadership of Communications Technology”
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 2:00 PM**

Thank you, Chairman Hudson for holding this important, bipartisan hearing on strategies to ensure continued U.S. leadership in communications technology.

In recent months, we have heard from previous participants and industry stakeholders about the need for strong U.S. participation in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) meetings and elections this year, as well as the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference. That’s why Ranking Member Pallone and I sent a letter to President Trump highlighting the strategic importance of U.S. participation in these fora and requesting an update on the Administration’s strategy for these engagements.

The CCP-controlled Chinese government has put significant effort into building its influence in international institutions, including the ITU. Coupled with the ITU’s decision to hold WRC-27 in Shanghai, the PRC is going into these meetings with an advantage, and the specific

intention of boxing out American interests. Governments and industry are understandably concerned about the risks of attending WRC.

Nevertheless, U.S. participation is essential to maintain American global leadership, so I look forward to hearing from the witnesses today about what the U.S. needs to do to be successful at these upcoming international engagements, and ultimately, how we maintain our competitive edge against adversaries like the China.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.