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6 SECURING U.S. LEADERSHIP OF COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

7 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

8 House of Representatives,

9 Subcommittee on Communications and Technology,

10 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

11 Washington, D.C.

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15 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 2:06 p.m. in
16 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Richard Hudson
17 [chairman of the subcommittee] presiding.

18 Present: Representatives Hudson, Allen, Latta,
19 Griffith, Bilirakis, Dunn, Fulcher, Pfluger, Cammack,
20 Goldman, Fedorchak, Guthrie (ex officio); Matsui, Soto,
21 Clarke, Ruiz, Peters, Barragan, Carter of Louisiana,
22 Menendez, Landsman, McClellan, Castor, and Pallone (ex
23 officio).

24 Also present: Representative Joyce.

25 Staff Present: Ansley Boylan, Director of Operations;
26 Christian Calvert, Press Assistant; Jessica Donlon, General
27 Counsel; Michael Essington, Chief Counsel; Sydney Greene,

28 Director of Finance and Logistics; Noah Jackson, Clerk; AT
29 Johnson, Special Advisor; John Lin, Senior Counsel; Elaina
30 Murphy, Professional Staff Member; Lillian Noland, Staff
31 Assistant; Dylan Rogers, Professional Staff Member; Chris
32 Sarley, Member Services/Stakeholder Director; Timothy
33 Trimble, Staff Assistant; Hannah Anton, Minority Policy
34 Analyst; Giancarlo Ceja, Minority Staff Assistant; Timia
35 Crisp, Minority Professional Staff Member; Parul Desai,
36 Minority Chief Counsel; Waverly Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff
37 Director and General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio, Minority
38 Staff Director; Serena Klebba, Minority Intern; Jaime McCoy,
39 Minority FCC Detailee; and Emma Roehrig, Minority Staff
40 Assistant.

41

42 *Mr. Hudson. The committee will come to order.

43 The chair recognizes himself for an opening statement.

44 First I want to apologize for being a couple minutes
45 late. I had some fire chiefs show up that weren't on my
46 schedule, but they are from the district so I had to say
47 hello, and I apologize for starting four minutes late.

48 Good afternoon, and welcome to today's bipartisan
49 subcommittee hearing examining strategies for the U.S. to
50 lead the future of communications technology.

51 This subcommittee has jurisdiction over the National
52 Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA, and
53 the Federal Communications Commission, FCC. Both are
54 integral to our nation's spectrum management policies. The
55 FCC also plays a critical role in overseeing the
56 communications industry.

57 In addition to these domestic agencies, there is also
58 international treaties, meetings, and bodies that help
59 establish global rules that govern these services. The
60 International Telecommunication Union, ITU, is the United
61 Nations agency responsible for international coordination of
62 communication services. The ITU manages the global table of
63 spectrum allocations, reflecting international agreement on
64 identified uses of spectrum frequencies across the world.
65 The ITU also allocates satellite orbits. The ITU meets every
66 four years to set a strategy for the next four and hold

67 elections for the organization's five top officials, the 48-
68 seat council membership, and 12 radio regulation board
69 members.

70 The ITU also holds the World Radiocommunication
71 Conference every four years to review and update
72 international treaties governing spectrum and satellite
73 orbits. The WRC-27 is expected to cover a variety of topics,
74 including discussions to identify additional spectrum bands
75 for International Mobile Telecommunications, IMT, service.
76 WRC-27 will also feature a number of important agenda items
77 related to the satellite services.

78 The satellite industry has been in a period of robust
79 growth and innovation over the last decade, with the U.S.
80 companies leading much of the world in these developments.
81 Satellite technology plays an increasingly important role in
82 our communications infrastructure, including broadband and
83 other critical services.

84 Satellite communication services have also been
85 transformational for our first responders. In my home state
86 of North Carolina, when Hurricane Helene devastated
87 terrestrial-based infrastructure, satellite was able to
88 bridge the gap and keep first responders connected. Demand
89 for these services has resulted in the deployment of
90 thousands of new satellites. Satellite-based services are a
91 global enterprise, and these deployments require close

92 coordination with the ITU and other countries.

93 Our nation is the world's economic powerhouse, and we
94 lead the world in innovation. The United States is home to
95 the world's best technology companies. These companies have
96 led in the creation of new devices and services that we rely
97 on every day. On our committee we are working in a
98 bipartisan way to ensure we continue to lead in new
99 technologies of tomorrow.

100 China wants to surpass the U.S. as the global technology
101 leader. Under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party, China
102 has subsidized and stolen technology across a wide range of
103 industries, including communications technologies. CCP-
104 affiliated companies like Huawei have exported communications
105 equipment around the world, giving support to the CCP's
106 espionage activities. The CCP also seeks to sideline the
107 United States in international telecommunication and
108 technology standard bodies. If successful, our allies and
109 partners around the world may increasingly turn to CCP-linked
110 entities for telecommunications and satellite solutions and
111 digital services. This is bad for American business, bad for
112 Americans who rely on these devices and services for their
113 daily lives, and ultimately undermines our economic and
114 national security.

115 The CCP notched another win in this column last year
116 when the ITU announced it would hold the 2027 World

117 Radiocommunication Conference, WRC-27, in Shanghai, China.
118 As the host country, China will serve as chair of the
119 conference, allowing the CCP to steer these critical
120 discussions. Given this, the U.S. should be an active
121 participant in all upcoming ITU engagements. As I mentioned,
122 WRC-27 will consider a number of agenda items related to
123 communication services, including spectrum allocations. Key
124 decisions will be made at these meetings to establish
125 technical rules for communications technologies.

126 So I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today
127 about what is at stake in these upcoming engagements and what
128 success looks like for the United States.

129 [The prepared statement of Mr. Hudson follows:]

130

131 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

132

133 *Mr. Hudson. I now recognize the ranking member, the
134 gentlelady from California, for her opening statement.

135 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am
136 glad we are holding this hearing today on a deeply bipartisan
137 priority: ensuring the United States is ready to lead at the
138 next World Radiocommunication Conference.

139 For many people, the WRC may sound far removed from
140 everyday life. But the decisions made there have some very
141 real consequences for America's economy, national security,
142 innovation ecosystem, and ability to shape the rules for
143 communications technology on the world stage. The WRC is
144 where countries come together to update the global rules that
145 govern spectrum and satellite orbits. Those rules help
146 determine how nations coordinate, how a variety of advanced
147 technologies from Wi-Fi to 6G to satellites grow and compete
148 worldwide, and whether open democratic countries like ours
149 will continue to lead.

150 Quite simply, if the United States isn't helping write
151 those rules, someone else will. And we all know China is
152 eager to fill that vacuum. That is why this process matters
153 so much. When the United States comes to the table prepared,
154 aligned, and working closely with our allies, we can be
155 incredibly effective. We can rally support around a shared
156 vision rooted in openness, transparency, innovation, and the
157 rule of law.

158 And getting this right matters even more as AI becomes
159 increasingly embedded in the technologies people rely on
160 every single day. AI is being integrated into our devices,
161 our networks, and the communication systems that power our
162 economy. That means the infrastructure decisions we make
163 today will shape how security and -- how securely and
164 effectively those technologies develop for years to come.

165 If the United States wants to lead in AI, we also have
166 to lead in the communications foundations that support it.
167 That is why we can't afford to wait until the last minute to
168 build consensus. We need serious interagency coordination,
169 early engagement with allies, and a clear sense of our
170 priorities well before WRC-27 begins.

171 As a co-chair of the Spectrum Caucus, I have long
172 believed that spectrum policy is about more than any single
173 piece of technology. It is about whether America has a
174 durable, forward-looking strategy to stay competitive in a
175 rapidly changing world. The importance of WRC discussions go
176 beyond communications here on the ground. Satellite issues
177 will make up 80 percent of the conference agenda, and
178 America's leadership in space is one of our great strategic
179 advantages. Our satellite companies are driving innovation,
180 expanding connectivity, and helping define the future of
181 global communications. We should be making sure
182 international rules support U.S. leadership, not undermine

183 it.

184 To put a finer point on it, WRC-2027 will be held in
185 Shanghai. That alone should focus our attention. The United
186 States can't be scrambling to catch up when China works to
187 shape the field around us.

188 So today I hope we can focus on what it will take for
189 the United States to succeed: early preparation, strong
190 diplomacy, coordinated agenda-setting, and a commitment to
191 entering WRC-2027 with one voice.

192 I want to thank our witnesses for being here today, and
193 I look forward to the discussion.

194 [The prepared statement of Ms. Matsui follows:]

195

196 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

197

198 *Ms. Matsui. With that I yield back.

199 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. I now recognize the chairman
200 of the full committee, the gentleman from Kentucky, for five
201 minutes for his opening statement.

202 *The Chair. Thank you, Chairman Hudson, and I
203 appreciate you holding this important bipartisan hearing on
204 strategies to ensure the USA leadership and communication
205 technologies.

206 In recent months we have heard from previous
207 participants and industry stakeholders about the need for
208 strong U.S. participation in the International
209 Telecommunications Union meetings and elections this year, as
210 well as the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference. And
211 this is a bipartisan hearing.

212 Working together, Ranking Member Pallone and I both sent
213 together a letter to President Trump highlighting the
214 strategic importance of U.S. participation in these -- for --
215 these forums, and requesting an update on the
216 Administration's strategy for these engagements. And my -- I
217 can't go without my good friend, the ranking member, Ms.
218 Matsui. We have worked together on spectrum for quite a bit,
219 making sure we have that spectrum to win the battle for
220 communications in the future.

221 But the CCP-controlled -- the Communist Party-controlled
222 Chinese Government has put significant effort into building

223 its influence in international institutions, including the
224 ITU. Coupled with the ITU's decision to hold the World Radio
225 Conference 2027 in Shanghai, the PRC has gone into these
226 meetings with an advantage and specific intention of boxing
227 out American interests. Governments and industry are
228 understandably concerned about the risk of attending the RWC.
229 Nevertheless, U.S. participation is essential to maintain
230 American global leadership.

231 So I look forward to hearing from the witnesses today
232 about what the U.S. needs to do to be successful at these
233 upcoming international engagements, and ultimately how we
234 maintain our competitive edge against adversaries like the
235 Chinese.

236 [The prepared statement of The Chair follows:]

237

238 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

239

240 *The Chair. Mr. Chairman, I will yield back.

241 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. I now recognize the gentleman
242 from New Jersey, the ranking member, for five minutes for his
243 opening statement.

244 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

245 Today this subcommittee continues its important
246 oversight of our communications networks by ensuring that our
247 country and communications companies are actively
248 participating on the global stage to shape the international
249 policies that will develop the next generation of innovative
250 technologies, including artificial intelligence.

251 And these global policies are decided through a United
252 Nations agency called the International Telecommunications
253 Union, or ITU, and this agency has done tremendous work in
254 its 160-year-old history to ensure seamless connectivity
255 across the world and to help connect those who are
256 unconnected. Our ability to easily call friends and family
257 living abroad, to use the same phone when we travel across
258 borders, or to rely on satellite broadband in even the most
259 remote locations is all thanks to the work of the ITU.

260 Now, given the ITU's role in shaping global
261 communications policy, it is critical that the United States,
262 as one of the 194 member states, must continue to actively
263 engage with this body. The ITU's current secretary general,
264 Doreen Bogdan-Martin, is a very qualified American with a

265 distinguished career at the ITU. She is also from my home
266 county of Monmouth in New Jersey, so I am prejudiced. She is
267 up for reelection later this year, and we must strongly
268 support her candidacy.

269 Also, the ITU will hold the World Radiocommunication
270 Conference, WRC-27, next year. And during this conference
271 the ITU member states will make several decisions impacting
272 both the wireless and satellite industries. Given this, both
273 the elections and the WRC-27 are critically important as they
274 collectively will establish the ITU's leadership for the next
275 four years and set policies that will either help or hamper
276 America's standing in the global communications marketplace.

277 Now, unfortunately, in recent years we have seen our
278 foreign adversaries, as was mentioned by my colleagues, we
279 have seen our foreign adversaries try to use bodies like the
280 ITU to sideline the United States and our allies by shaping
281 global communication policy decisions to benefit their
282 countries and their companies like Huawei. And I suspect we
283 will see similar behavior during the ITU elections this year
284 and at the WRC-27 next year. And that is why Chairman
285 Guthrie and I sent a letter last week to the President asking
286 for a briefing on the Administration's efforts to prepare for
287 these upcoming engagements.

288 The U.S. must have an agenda heading into these forums
289 that is unified and aligned with our priorities so that we

290 can secure our country's dominance in information and
291 communications technology for years to come. And among other
292 things, this agenda must support the reelection, as I said,
293 of the secretary general, as well as all the other Americans
294 running for ITU leadership positions. And it matters who is
295 in charge. And as history has shown us, early adopters and
296 developers of technology define the marketplace. They drive
297 innovation and they reap economic benefits. And so we have
298 to continue to lead.

299 But for the United States to be successful, we have to
300 maintain strong ties with our allies, and that is something I
301 am very concerned about right now, especially with the
302 President's war in Iran. These ties are important because
303 each country at the ITU retains one vote. We will not be
304 able to enact our agenda unless we work with other countries
305 and gain their support. And therefore, the head of our
306 delegation must exhibit strong diplomatic skills and identify
307 our top objectives while also understanding where we can
308 compromise. We know our country will not be immune at the
309 ITU from its larger foreign policy decisions, so we will need
310 to be strategic to successfully achieve our policy
311 priorities.

312 And finally, I appreciate how challenging it will be for
313 government and industry representatives to attend the WRC-27,
314 given the conference's location in Shanghai. Sadly, this is

315 another indication of just how much our adversaries want to
316 control the agenda in this global arena. And therefore, it
317 will be imperative for the U.S. to negotiate strong
318 protections for itself and our allies through the host
319 country agreement with China. Among other things, we have to
320 ensure that there are strong safety protections in place so
321 that we can have robust participation from government
322 officials and private sector delegates.

323 So the decisions, as we said, made at WRC-27 will help
324 shape the next decade or more of technology policy. So we
325 have to take our seat at the table and make sure we have a
326 lot of people behind us. So I look forward to today's
327 hearing.

328 [The prepared statement of Mr. Pallone follows:]

329

330 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

331

332 *Mr. Pallone. And I yield back the balance of my time,
333 Mr. Chairman.

334 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. We have now concluded with
335 opening statements. The chair will remind members that,
336 pursuant to committee rules, all members' opening statements
337 will be made part of the record.

338 We would like to thank our witnesses for being here
339 today to testify before the subcommittee. Our witnesses will
340 have five minutes to provide an opening statement, which will
341 be followed by a round of questions from members.

342 The witnesses here before us today are Ambassador Steve
343 Lang, senior advisor at Crest Hill Advisors; Fiona Alexander,
344 distinguished policy strategist in residence in the School of
345 International Service at American University; George John, a
346 partner at Global Regulatory at Hogan Lovells; and Dave
347 Cavossa, president of the Commercial Space Federation.

348 Thank you all for being here.

349 Ambassador Lang, you are recognized for five minutes for
350 your opening statement.

351

352 STATEMENT OF STEVE LANG, SENIOR ADVISOR, CREST HILL ADVISORS;
353 FIONA ALEXANDER, DISTINGUISHED POLICY STRATEGIST-IN-
354 RESIDENCE, SIS, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY; GEORGE JOHN, PARTNER,
355 GLOBAL REGULATORY, HOGAN LOVELLS; AND DAVE CAVOSSA,
356 PRESIDENT, COMMERCIAL SPACE FEDERATION

357

358 STATEMENT OF STEVE LANG

359

360 *Mr. Lang. Thank you very much, Chairman Hudson,
361 Ranking Member Matsui, and members of the subcommittee.
362 Thank you for holding this hearing and for giving me the
363 opportunity to share my perspectives on this important topic.

364 I had the honor of leading our delegation to the 2023
365 World Radiocommunication Conference, and recently retired
366 from the State Department after a 30-year career serving
367 under five presidents. I am honored to testify today on my
368 own behalf based on those experiences and not on behalf of
369 the clients of Crest Hill Advisors.

370 The World Radiocommunication Conference may be the most
371 consequential international negotiation that most people have
372 never heard of. At the WRC, ITU members negotiate updates to
373 the International Radio Regulations, a treaty-level
374 instrument that allocates and harmonizes radio frequency
375 spectrum to enable new services, prevent interference, and
376 promote interoperability.

377 As you know, spectrum is a finite resource, and with the
378 rapid advancement of ever more data-intensive technologies
379 and the accelerating growth of mobile and wireless devices,
380 it is increasingly precious to an ever-growing number of
381 industries, government agencies, scientists, and consumers.

382 Radio frequency spectrum harmonization through the WRC
383 has allowed industries ranging from mobile phones to Wi-Fi to
384 achieve global economies of scale, driving billions in
385 investment. It ensures our military that its radar and
386 communication systems can operate reliably and without
387 interference. And increasingly, the WRC is critical to
388 unlocking the space economy, from new satellite technologies
389 to a human presence on the moon.

390 Like other multilateral bodies, the ITU and WRC are
391 flawed. But there is no other mechanism that can
392 realistically open global markets to wireless services.
393 Private companies can join the ITU as sector members and
394 participate in the WRC: an unusual feature for a UN
395 organization that has worked to our advantage.

396 The stakes are high. China is aggressively promoting
397 its approach to digital technology around the world, an
398 approach that uses technology to restrict speech and repress
399 dissent. It has targeted the ITU as a venue for expanding
400 its global technology reach. That is why it was a
401 significant blow to U.S. interests when the ITU council voted

402 to accept China's offer to host WRC-27 in Shanghai. A
403 Chinese official will now be the presumptive chair for the
404 conference, and information security will be a serious
405 concern. But these potential obstacles must not deter us.
406 They should drive the United States to recommit to winning at
407 the WRC.

408 China's offer to host in the first place was motivated
409 in part by the successful U.S. effort in 2022 to replace the
410 Chinese secretary general of the ITU with Doreen Bogdan-
411 Martin, a uniquely qualified American citizen and former
412 Department of Commerce official. China's offer to host the
413 WRC was aimed at reasserting its influence.

414 With advanced preparation and planning, effective
415 leadership, and a high-level commitment to success, the
416 United States can achieve all of its objectives at WRC-27. I
417 believe there are four critical steps that the U.S.
418 Government must take to win.

419 First, keep the pressure on China. China won the vote
420 to host by a narrow margin of only 25 votes of the 48 ITU
421 council members, and its legitimacy as host is already in
422 question. We must continue to hold China accountable and
423 press like-minded partners to do the same, while urging the
424 ITU to do so in its negotiation of the host country
425 agreement.

426 Second, accelerate U.S. preparations. The U.S.

427 delegation in the past has too often been disadvantaged by
428 delays in developing U.S. positions. Senior leadership of
429 U.S. agencies including the FCC, Departments of Commerce,
430 Defense, and State need to commit with White House support to
431 developing U.S. positions as quickly as possible.

432 Third, build coalitions early. We cannot win this
433 contest without friends and allies who share our priorities
434 and are committed to standing up to opposition. The earlier
435 we start building those coalitions through persistent, high-
436 level diplomatic engagement, the more successful we will be.

437 And finally, identify leadership now and build the right
438 team. I understand that the Administration has been working
439 to identify the head of delegation for WRC-27, and I hope we
440 will see an announcement soon. The sooner that happens, the
441 better. It will also be essential to make sure that he or
442 she has the right team in place and is fully resourced to
443 engage diplomatically on a global scale.

444 The ITU is far from perfect, and the WRC is frustrating
445 and often difficult. However, with a high-level commitment
446 to action now, the United States can emerge from WRC-27
447 stronger and more competitive in the global tech race.

448 Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.

449

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451

452 [The prepared statement of Mr. Lang follows:]

453

454 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

455

456 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you.

457 Ms. Alexander, you are recognized for five minutes for
458 your opening statement.

459

460 STATEMENT OF FIONA ALEXANDER

461

462 *Ms. Alexander. Good afternoon, Chairman Hudson,
463 Ranking Member Matsui, and members of the committee. Thank
464 you for the opportunity to testify today on securing U.S.
465 leadership of communications technology.

466 While I am currently affiliated with American
467 University, I previously spent nearly 20 years at NTIA where
468 I worked extensively on ITU matters.

469 Imagine your typical congressional session week. You
470 use the in-flight Wi-Fi to stay connected. Your staff sends
471 you updates on your schedules and votes. Constituents
472 contact your office for assistance. You do a live,
473 nationwide TV interview and you get in your car and rely on
474 the navigation system to get you safely to your evening's
475 events. None of this happens without the work done at the
476 ITU, making the ITU the most important organization most
477 people have never heard of and an institution critical to the
478 national and economic security of the United States.

479 While many are focused on the 2027 World Radio
480 Conference, given its importance to spectrum and space

481 issues, it is equally important not to lose sight of this
482 year's ITU plenipotentiary meeting in November. Work at the
483 ITU is continuous. What happens at one meeting impacts the
484 next. And one of the biggest risks to U.S. success at WRC
485 next year is an unsuccessful plenipotentiary this year.

486 Success at the ITU is years in the making. It requires
487 long-term planning, endless preparation, and sustained
488 engagement with allies. With that in mind I offer four
489 specific actions for consideration.

490 First, assemble our team. The key to success at both
491 meetings is strong, committed political leadership willing to
492 take an all-hands-on-deck approach. It is encouraging that
493 the Trump Administration has nominated NTIA Deputy Assistant
494 Secretary Adam Cassady to be the ambassador at-large for
495 cyberspace and digital policy. His swift Senate confirmation
496 is needed so clear policy goals can be articulated and
497 understood by all.

498 Additionally, appropriate resources across relevant U.S.
499 government agencies must be secured. All agencies have lost
500 key personnel through retirements and downsizing.
501 Compounding this, the U.S. has constrained itself by limiting
502 delegation size and the participation of contractors and
503 lobbyists, something no other country does. These
504 restrictions should be revisited if the U.S. is to truly
505 adopt the all-hands-on-deck mentality needed to succeed.

506 Second, have a plan. The plan needs goals that serve as
507 North Stars and policy positions against which the U.S. can
508 negotiate. A robust interagency process with meaningful
509 input from U.S. industry and stakeholders must be established
510 early so that disputes can be elevated to senior levels and
511 thoughtful decisions made in a timely manner. When the
512 delegation arrives on the ground, parochial agency and
513 industry concerns must be set aside. It has to be one team,
514 Team USA.

515 Third, know your audience. Just as legislation requires
516 negotiating committee processes and building cosponsors, the
517 ITU requires similar coalition-building across regions. For
518 the United States this means working through CITELE, the
519 regional group for the Americas. Sustained effort must go
520 into securing regional positions and working with allies and
521 partners. Beyond CITELE, issue-specific allies can often be
522 found in surprising places if genuine engagement is made.

523 Finally, play a complete game. Just as in the
524 congressional process, if you want to be able to influence
525 the outcome you must have a seat at the table. In Congress
526 those are conference committee assignments. In the ITU it is
527 by submitting proposals. There is always a package deal to
528 be made. The same as legislating: nothing is final until
529 everything is final, and you want to be in the game until the
530 end. Reflexively rejecting certain phrases or concepts could

531 take us out of the conversation entirely.

532 Successful ITU campaigns also require every country at
533 every opportunity for support, engaging not just telecom
534 agencies and foreign affairs departments, but defense
535 agencies and presidential offices and national capitals
536 worldwide, and embassies here in Washington. This is exactly
537 what made our campaign for Doreen Bogdan-Martin to become the
538 director of the ITU development bureau a success. And on a
539 personal note, Doreen's election is one of my proudest
540 moments as a U.S. government employee.

541 Political leadership in the first Trump Administration.
542 David Redl, Ajit Pai, and Rob Strayer set aside agency
543 differences, aligned on a common goal, divided up the world,
544 and went to work together. That is what it will take to
545 secure her second term as secretary general and for the U.S.
546 to be successful at WRC.

547 Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.
548 Congressional engagement tells the world there is a strong,
549 unified support from all quarters of the U.S. Government for
550 wins across the ITU. And I am happy to answer any questions.

551 [The prepared statement of Ms. Alexander follows:]

552

553 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

554

555 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you.

556 Mr. John, you are recognized for five minutes for your
557 opening statement.

558

559 STATEMENT OF GEORGE JOHN

560

561 *Mr. John. Thank you very much. Good afternoon,
562 Chairman Hudson, Ranking Member Matsui, and distinguished
563 members of the subcommittee. My name is George John. As
564 mentioned earlier, I am a partner at a law firm called Hogan
565 Lovells in their communications, internet, and media practice
566 group. In addition to that I was recently appointed as the
567 chair of the Federal advisory committee over at the FCC that
568 handles WRC matters. All that said, I am testifying in my
569 own personal capacity today, and these are my own views.

570 So with that context, it is important to remember what
571 is at stake here. Every time a satellite takes a picture of
572 the Earth, a phone or computer connects to wireless
573 broadband, or plane navigates safely, they all depend on the
574 rules established at the ITU. When that framework stays
575 clear, technically grounded, and timely, innovation scales
576 and deployment accelerates. When it becomes outdated and
577 fragmented, interference risks increase, equipment and
578 manufacturing costs rise, investment slows, and strategic
579 leverage can shift to our rivals. So that is why we have the

580 ITU plenipotentiary, as mentioned, and the World
581 Radiocommunication Conference, to ensure that these
582 frameworks best suit American interests now and going
583 forward.

584 So the plenipotentiary is very important. It is the
585 ITU's governance conference. It is where we are going to be
586 selecting top leadership. We are going to be setting budgets
587 and strategy that make very, very important, you know,
588 outcomes for how the next cycle of the ITU will work and, in
589 my personal belief, will be a good counter-balance to what
590 China and others are trying to do internationally.

591 The twin pillar to that is the WRC, and the WRC is the
592 treaty-level rulemaking conference. That is where we are
593 going to actually go ahead and refresh the radio regulations
594 that allow us to operate internationally. So we are going to
595 establish sharing compatibility conditions and the various
596 procedures that manufacturers, operators, and regulators will
597 be abiding by going forward.

598 So the reality is that international outcomes are
599 largely set through years of preparation, not only during
600 final conference sessions in 2026, the plenipotentiary, or
601 2027 at the WRC.

602 And so I will gift you all with some recommendations as
603 we go through our testimony today, but I want to make a few
604 observations based off of recent ITU cycles, and three

605 specifically.

606 The first is the penitentiary and the WRC really have to
607 be active, multi-year campaigns. And much of the decisive
608 work really needs to be completed today, not at the end of
609 this year or not next year.

610 The second thing is we need to prioritize outcomes that
611 really do modernize the ITU radio regulations, and we are
612 accommodating these evolving and emerging technologies, but
613 we are ensuring that the incumbents are properly protected.

614 While we are doing this, I think it is very important
615 going forward to start actually looking at the underlying
616 technical study assumptions that we are using in a timely
617 manner, and making sure that those are grounded in actual,
618 like, sound engineering principles, and evaluating them
619 against any of the existing interference protection criteria.
620 And we should actually consider potentially incorporating
621 them into our studies for this upcoming cycle to make sure
622 that we are actually making the most efficient use of
623 spectrum as mandated by Congress for both the FCC and NTIA,
624 as well as our mandate at the ITU. And so if we were to use
625 any type of new study assumptions, they would have to be
626 grounded in technical justification as well as consensus.

627 And the last observation is we do need sustained
628 congressional involvement here, and I appreciate the letters
629 that have gone out in the fall of this year -- or last year,

630 excuse me -- and as well as two or three weeks ago.

631 And in addition to that, some of this oversight would
632 preferably be non-public. It could be in terms of
633 roundtables or other interactions that staff might have with
634 industry. It also would be check-ins with the relevant
635 agencies to make sure that we are hitting milestones. And
636 those milestones are not next year, they are this year.

637 And so I thank you for the opportunity to provide this
638 statement, and I really do appreciate the subcommittee's
639 commitment to securing America's technological future, and I
640 look forward to your questions.

641 [The prepared statement of Mr. John follows:]

642

643 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

644

645 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you.

646 Mr. Cavossa, you are recognized for five minutes for
647 your opening statement.

648

649 STATEMENT OF DAVE CAVOSSA

650

651 *Mr. Cavossa. Thank you, Chairman Hudson, Ranking
652 Member Matsui, Ranking Member Pallone, and members of the
653 committee. Thank you for inviting me here today to speak on
654 behalf of the commercial space industry and the Commercial
655 Space Federation.

656 While I feel like a novice or a rookie sitting at this
657 table when it comes to the ITU, the WRC, plenipot, CITELE, I
658 think I am probably one of the experts when it comes to the
659 impact that those organizations and those deliberations are
660 going to have on the commercial space and satellite industry
661 that I represent at CSF.

662 CSF is the trade association representing the U.S.
663 commercial space and satellite industry. Our members
664 represent every sector of the space economy, including launch
665 and reentry, remote sensing, spaceports, satellite
666 communications, in-space research and manufacturing,
667 commercial space stations, data centers in space, space solar
668 power, and space situational awareness.

669 Space companies are already providing direct-to-cell

670 connectivity and internet service to locations difficult to
671 reach with wired technologies throughout the world today, and
672 soon space solar power providers will be beaming down energy
673 to the Earth to supplement our grid. And data centers will
674 be moving into space to help relieve some of the energy and
675 natural resource consumption issues we are seeing here on
676 Earth today.

677 Commercial space is essential for establishing a lunar
678 base and manufacturing materials in space, and will improve
679 life on Earth. The only limit to U.S. space commercial space
680 innovation are physics, red tape, and access to spectrum.
681 Space services all require a pipeline of low, mid, and high-
682 band spectrum, and each band plays a unique role in satellite
683 connectivity. In the U.S. the FCC and NTIA must manage
684 spectrum access to promote efficient communications and
685 continued innovation. Both are actively modernizing outdated
686 rules and delivering spectrum abundance for satellites and,
687 as Chairman Carr recently called it, weird space stuff.

688 The FCC's groundbreaking deregulatory and space
689 modernization efforts are designed to root out and replace
690 outdated and overly restrictive rules with bold action to
691 adopt modern, efficient, spectrum-sharing rules that promote
692 U.S. companies first and foremost. CSF applauds these
693 actions, as well as those included in the Senate's SAT
694 Streamlining Act that supports growth in the American

695 commercial space industry.

696 To win in the global space race, however, regulatory
697 innovation cannot end at the U.S. coastline. As the
698 committee is aware, the deliberations for the WRC are
699 critical to the future of the U.S. commercial space industry,
700 and over 80 percent of this upcoming WRC agenda is focused on
701 satellite and space issues.

702 While many agenda items seek to modernize outdated and
703 over-protective rules, incumbents and foreign adversaries are
704 seeking to block reforms and impose new harmful restrictions.
705 It is essential that America has a strong, unified voice for
706 the WRC, and this is supported by a recent Trump
707 Administration executive order on space superiority. That
708 includes a priority to "demonstrate spectrum leadership
709 across space applications to promote United States technology
710 competitiveness, spectrum management efficiency, and global
711 market access.''

712 Congress has repeatedly directed U.S. agencies to
713 promote American innovation and efficient communication both
714 domestically and abroad. And to fulfill their mandates, the
715 FCC and NTIA must take a first-principles approach to WRC.
716 CSF urges the entire U.S. delegation to adopt positions that
717 reflect the following key principles: number one, requiring
718 WRC-27 preparatory studies to reflect modern capabilities,
719 real-world assumptions, and sound engineering; number two,

720 modernizing or removing outdated, inefficient, and
721 overprotective interference protection criteria; and number
722 three, enabling us to provide innovative -- to rapidly
723 innovate, deploy, and compete by promoting global
724 harmonization of innovative U.S. spectrum-sharing frameworks.

725 I have included CSF's specific consensus recommendations
726 in our written testimony, but I want to conclude by
727 summarizing the stakes involved. A strong, pro-innovation
728 U.S. strategy at the ITU is necessary as our international
729 competitors, particularly China, are working to advance their
730 own space capabilities to compete with the United States. As
731 CSF illustrated in our recent redshift report, China has
732 decided that space and AI are two of the areas that they want
733 to be global leaders on and unseat the United States in those
734 roles. And WRC is one step in the direction that they are
735 going to take to do that.

736 Thank you all for inviting me again here today, and I
737 look forward to your questions.

738 [The prepared statement of Mr. Cavossa follows:]

739

740 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

741

742 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you very much. We will now begin
743 questioning, and I will recognize myself for five minutes.

744 Mr. Cavossa, I appreciated your testimony, enjoyed
745 reading your written testimony. Can you talk a little bit
746 more, though, about what happens to American satellite
747 companies in the U.S. if we opt to not actively participate
748 in these upcoming engagements?

749 *Mr. Cavossa. Sure, thank you for the question.

750 You know, when it comes to sort of space and satellite
751 communications providers, we are inherently global players,
752 right? We are not just serving one country. The business
753 case in space and satellite closes most effectively when we
754 can serve dozens or hundreds of countries. And the ITU tends
755 to be the leader that most other countries use to set their
756 domestic regulations and policy around spectrum. So it is
757 very important that the U.S. push forward our positions that
758 are pro-satellite, pro-space at the ITU and the WRC because
759 it impacts so many other countries in how they set up their
760 standards going forward.

761 *Mr. Hudson. And so how does this impact consumers here
762 in the United States?

763 *Mr. Cavossa. I mean, the easiest way to think about
764 it, as it was noted, I think, in several of the opening
765 remarks is that space and satellite are integral to your
766 everyday life right now. And the Chinese are standing up and

767 other countries are standing up competitors to U.S. satellite
768 and space companies. And there is very much a coordinated
769 strategy and investment to push those companies forward, to
770 beat the likes of SpaceX and Starlink and Blue Origin and
771 Rocket Lab and other U.S. companies.

772 So it is imperative that the U.S. consumer -- I am
773 sorry, it is imperative for the U.S. consumer that those U.S.
774 companies maintain a leadership role. Otherwise, Chinese
775 companies could take that on and I am not sure that is where
776 we want to be communicating through.

777 *Mr. Hudson. Well, I agree with you. I don't think
778 U.S. consumers want to have their only option being Chinese
779 satellite companies. So I agree with you on that.

780 This week I sent a letter to Secretary Rubio along with
781 my colleague, Mark Veasey, and a group of bipartisan Members
782 highlighting the role the U.S. Government, including our
783 diplomats, can play in getting our partners and allies to
784 take seriously threats to their communications infrastructure
785 posed by untrusted equipment.

786 Mr. John, can you talk about why letting China lead --
787 you mentioned this, but expound upon why letting China lead
788 at ITU and WRC could further entrench CCP-affiliated network
789 equipment.

790 *Mr. John. Sure. I appreciate your efforts on this
791 front.

792 So if China is leading in these global communication
793 standards development efforts, right, its companies are going
794 to be the ones that benefit, and they are the ones that are
795 going to be developing the standards and the equipment and
796 everything else that goes through with it. And so that
797 creates this type of long-term lock-in that reduces
798 competition and increases reliance on these Chinese vendors,
799 and that is not good.

800 And the analogy I was thinking of is if one country
801 drives the plug shape and the voltage assumptions, right, all
802 the manufacturers are going to build to that standard first,
803 and everyone else ends up buying adapters or rebuilding
804 later. It is inherently inefficient.

805 *Mr. Hudson. So the world buys products made somewhere
806 other than the U.S. is what you are saying.

807 *Mr. John. Exactly.

808 *Mr. Hudson. Ambassador Lang, is there anything you
809 would like to add about the work the department plays in
810 these conversations, I guess, from a State Department point
811 of view?

812 *Mr. Lang. Yes. The State Department actually leads
813 and coordinates the effort for all of our engagement with the
814 ITU. We have sort of a two-pronged process when it comes to
815 preparations for the WRC specifically. We have the FCC
816 coordinating industry stakeholders, and NTIA coordinating the

817 views of Federal users, and then State Department oversees
818 that process as it comes together and then leads our
819 diplomatic engagement.

820 *Mr. Hudson. That is very helpful.

821 Mr. John, going back to you, in your testimony you
822 talked about why the ITU and WRC-27 are important to our
823 industry. Can you drill down, talk about how this impacts
824 Americans in their daily lives?

825 I think we have all kind of touched on this in your
826 testimony, but if you are an American sitting home watching
827 this hearing, what is the bottom line for you if we don't
828 participate, if we allow CCP to write policy and dominate
829 these conferences?

830 *Mr. John. What we will see is less innovation, less
831 competition, higher prices for consumers. And all that is a
832 no-go.

833 *Mr. Hudson. It all sounds bad to me. Thank you very
834 much.

835 I will now recognize our ranking member on the
836 subcommittee, Ms. Matsui, for five minutes for your
837 questions.

838 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

839 Shanghai hosting WRC-27 creates real challenges. We all
840 know China is not just another host country; it is a
841 strategic competitor whose influence as host raises serious

842 concerns about information security and broader strategy and
843 efforts to shape the field to its advantage.

844 Ambassador Lang, how could the United States most
845 effectively hold China accountable in its management of the
846 conference?

847 *Mr. Lang. Thank you very much for that question. I
848 think it is a very important one.

849 The United States, first of all, we need to work with
850 the ITU as it negotiates the host country agreement, and make
851 sure that that agreement includes every kind of guarantee
852 that we can possibly think of that we might need.

853 As we go into the conference we, the delegation, will
854 need to be aggressive and persistent in making sure that it
855 is in every conversation, every consequential conversation
856 that is taking place in the conference, and that it is not
857 shut out of any negotiating sessions.

858 I think that we will want to make sure that we are using
859 the steering committee for the conference. There is a
860 steering committee that works with the chairman to oversee
861 that. Traditionally, the United States has been a member of
862 that steering committee. We want to make sure that we are on
863 it again, and that we work closely with our allies and
864 partners throughout this process to make sure they are
865 delivering the same message about their concerns.

866 We need to make sure we are keeping a close eye on

867 China. We need to have our legal advisor there on the ground
868 and keep in touch with the ITU and its legal advisor. And
869 basically, just be on top of China the whole time.

870 *Ms. Matsui. So it is a lot of preparation management,
871 right? Okay.

872 For the United States to succeed at WRC we need trusted
873 partners, we need regional support, and we need to build
874 those relationships long before the conference begins. Ms.
875 Alexander, from your experience, what does effective
876 coalition-building actually look like?

877 And where should the U.S. be investing its diplomatic
878 energy right now?

879 Microphone.

880 *Ms. Alexander. Yes, thanks, sorry. Thank you. Sorry.
881 Thank you very much for the question and the opportunity to
882 answer.

883 From my experience in doing this, it is all the hard
884 work that we have been talking about. It is showing up, it
885 is making your decisions on priorities, it is engaging with
886 your friends and allies, it is finding partnerships where you
887 can find them.

888 I will tell you, for my team and my staff, not just for
889 ITU treaty conferences but for every international
890 organization that we participate in, every meeting, small or
891 big, my staff had a call sheet and they had to call people

892 ahead of the meeting and understand, where are you, what is
893 important for you this meeting? And a lot of times issues
894 that matter to friends and allies weren't top of mind for us,
895 but we could find ways to work with them. So it is important
896 that the staff and the teams do that now, and do that
897 quickly.

898 In the context of where is it important to prioritize,
899 obviously for the ITU, CITELE is critical because we do submit
900 proposals through that regional group. But we are also
901 running for election at plenipot, and we are running Doreen
902 for ITU secretary general. We are running Jennifer Warren
903 for radio regulations board, and we are running for a seat on
904 the ITU council. So that means the United States has to
905 engage everyone everywhere, because the voting in the ITU is
906 through a paper ballot through a box that comes from Geneva,
907 and you deliver your paper ballot in a clear box. You get
908 called up country by country in French alphabetical order.

909 So you have to put in the work to get these election
910 results --

911 *Ms. Matsui. Okay.

912 *Ms. Alexander. -- so you have to talk to everyone, and
913 you need to do it now.

914 *Ms. Matsui. Okay. There is a lot of personal
915 engagements. Okay.

916 I have long believed that the United States Government

917 needs to speak with one voice on spectrum policy. If we fail
918 to do that going to the WRC-27, we risk undercutting our own
919 advocacy, weakening our ability to build coalitions and
920 giving China more room to shape the outcome.

921 Ambassador Lang, where do you see the biggest choke
922 points in the United States interagency process today, and
923 what would you recommend to ensure we are developing
924 positions early enough to be effective abroad?

925 *Mr. Lang. Thank you very much for the question.

926 I think that our system actually has a lot of strengths.
927 It has robust stakeholder input, which I think is to our
928 advantage. The problem is that it can be slow and that,
929 especially when we get to tough issues, it can take more time
930 to resolve them.

931 So I think what is important is to identify what are
932 those tough issues that are going to be difficult to
933 reconcile, make sure they get elevated to higher levels
934 quickly, and that they get senior level attention at our
935 agencies, and that they prioritize sorting them out as
936 quickly as possible.

937 *Ms. Matsui. Okay. Quickly, Mr. Cavossa, I know I
938 don't have much time here, but your testimony linked
939 satellite monetization to next-generation wireless, including
940 direct-to-device communications to reach people in
941 emergencies. How should the United States approach WRC in a

942 way that supports both our ground-based wireless technologies
943 and our commercial space leadership, rather than forcing
944 these priorities into separate silos?

945 *Mr. Cavossa. Sure.

946 *Ms. Matsui. And you have got 14 seconds.

947 *Mr. Cavossa. In 12 seconds, you know --

948 *Mr. Hudson. You have time to answer. Go ahead.

949 *Ms. Matsui. Okay.

950 *Mr. Cavossa. Positions that are focused on
951 administration policy, sound engineering, you know, reflect
952 modern technologies that have been introduced, and real-world
953 assumptions.

954 *Ms. Matsui. Okay. Okay. Well, thank you very much.
955 And I yield back.

956 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. I now recognize Mr. Guthrie
957 for five minutes to ask your questions.

958 *The Chair. Thank you, I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman.
959 And this is first from Ms. Alexander, and then if Ambassador
960 Lang would add.

961 So Doreen Bogdan-Martin is running for reelection as
962 secretary general of the ITU. There are also other Americans
963 running for positions. Why is it important to have Americans
964 in these roles, in these leadership positions? And if you
965 and Ambassador Lang would answer that. Why is it important
966 to have Americans in these roles?

967 *Ms. Alexander. Sure, I am happy to go first.

968 *The Chair. Okay.

969 *Ms. Alexander. Thank you very much for the question,
970 and I will just say that leadership starts at the top in
971 every institution, whether it is here in Congress or in the
972 administration, and the ITU is no different. So it is
973 important to have someone in these positions that shares our
974 values and that shares our agenda and what we are working for
975 in terms of innovation and economic growth.

976 Doreen, in her first term as secretary general, has made
977 a lot of progress in trying to make the more -- ITU more
978 accountable, provide some auditing, and provide some
979 oversight. And it is important that we have that and we have
980 that continue.

981 *Mr. Lang. I really don't have too much to add. I
982 would just underscore the importance of sound management of
983 the organization. Doreen has taken some important steps to
984 strengthen that management and to make it more transparent.
985 Transparency is something that we very much lacked when a
986 Chinese citizen was head of the organization.

987 *The Chair. Okay, thank you. And this is also -- Ms.
988 Alexander, if you would go first on the next question, and
989 Mr. John, if you have anything to add.

990 So several of you have mentioned the importance of
991 relationships and working with partners and allies in advance

992 of ITU meetings this year, and the WRC-27. At the same time,
993 work is ongoing with the U.S. Government to develop our
994 official positions.

995 And Ms. Alexander, can you talk about how -- about why
996 U.S. participation is still essential at this stage and how
997 these engagements can be productive?

998 And Mr. John, if you could comment, too.

999 *Ms. Alexander. Sure. So again, the ITU and all the
1000 components of it are always meeting. There is always a
1001 conference. And our region is CITELE. There are other
1002 regions, and we can go to those conferences and those
1003 meetings as well. So it is important to show up. It is
1004 important to understand what other countries are trying to
1005 pursue. It is important to understand how what they are
1006 trying to pursue might impact what you are trying to pursue.
1007 You need all this intelligence, and you need all this
1008 information to develop your strategy once you decide what
1009 your clear positions are.

1010 *The Chair. Mr. John, do you have anything to add?

1011 *Mr. John. Yes. If we were to consider this like a
1012 trial, you just don't show up to the closing argument, you
1013 got to develop the record beforehand. And so we have a dual-
1014 track process that occurs in the three to four-year cycle
1015 before WRC and also the plenipot.

1016 And so if we are focused on just the WRC, the working

1017 party process I mentioned in my opening -- or in my written
1018 statement, that is where the technical studies are actually
1019 conducted. And that is where we try to drive results that
1020 lead to conclusions that allow us to develop the regulatory
1021 text, the potential no-change or the potential changes to the
1022 actual radio regulations.

1023 And so, in parallel with that, there is the second track
1024 which we reference as the CITELE track, and that is where the
1025 FCC has its process and the NTIA has its RCS process, and
1026 that is where we take those technical study results and try
1027 to actually concoct the regional -- or, excuse me, the
1028 regulatory text, right, and we will have a U.S. proposal.
1029 And that U.S. proposal has to then -- we have to build a
1030 coalition around it, and that is why we go to CITELE and try
1031 to get other North-Central-South American administrations --
1032 specifically, at least five of them -- to actually join our
1033 particular U.S. proposal, and that gets sent to the ITU.

1034 And so something I thought that was helpful yesterday,
1035 one of our industry colleagues said at the Senate hearing is,
1036 yes, America First, but it cannot be America alone. And that
1037 is very important to highlight.

1038 *The Chair. All right, thank you. And I will ask this
1039 for you again, Mr. John, and then for the panel, if you like
1040 to comment.

1041 As you know, work remains to reach consensus among

1042 industry and our Federal stakeholders. Can you talk about
1043 how China views these international engagements and forums,
1044 and why it is important that the U.S. and our partners -- why
1045 it is important for our U.S. and partners to offer
1046 alternatives to adversary-led positions? And what is at
1047 stake? Kind of what is at stake in this?

1048 If you will start in the -- until we run out of time, I
1049 will -- Mr. John?

1050 *Mr. John. Sure. So China is very involved not only at
1051 the ITU, but through GPP and the various standards-setting
1052 bodies. And in addition to that, it builds wide coalitions,
1053 whether it be its peers in Asia or other countries through
1054 BRICS or through Central America, for example. And that is
1055 how it has been able to apply this pressure. And I think the
1056 hearing memo covered that very well.

1057 And what is at stake here is -- for industry -- the
1058 predictability, the scale, the market access that all of us
1059 yearn for, that is at stake. And so U.S. leadership really
1060 needs to be focused on being early, being technically
1061 credible, and being focused on those coalitions that I was
1062 alluding to before.

1063 *The Chair. Would anybody else like to comment on what
1064 is at stake? I got 15 seconds, so one quick comment on what
1065 is at stake, anybody got it?

1066 All right, thank you, and I will yield back.

1067 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. I now recognize the gentleman
1068 from New Jersey, Mr. Pallone, for five minutes for your
1069 questions.

1070 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that
1071 some of what I wanted to ask has been covered, but maybe not
1072 other parts of it.

1073 So let me just mention that last week Chairman Guthrie
1074 and I sent a letter to the President regarding the
1075 Administration's prep for both the upcoming elections at the
1076 ITU and the WRC-27. In the letter we stressed that the U.S.
1077 must be focused on these upcoming ITU engagements to ensure
1078 that our country remains a tech leader on the global stage.
1079 And to help achieve that, Ambassador Lang, you mentioned that
1080 we have to keep the pressure on China at ITU. Obviously, I
1081 agree with you. So have so many others who have already
1082 asked you questions.

1083 I think you have explained how American consumers and
1084 our country's telecommunications companies will suffer if we
1085 fail to meet this objective, but I don't know, did you want
1086 to add anything to that?

1087 *Mr. Lang. Well, I guess I -- thank you for the
1088 question -- I would like to add something.

1089 I do think that, thinking broadly about the second and
1090 third-order effects of these events and the impact they have
1091 on our strategic competition with China overall, I think that

1092 technology now is the foundation for our strategic
1093 competitiveness. And what is at stake is more than the
1094 competitiveness of our industries. It is more than our
1095 economic prosperity. It is our national security. And if
1096 China is successful in promulgating its approach to digital
1097 technologies around the world, I think our democratic values
1098 are at stake, as well.

1099 *Mr. Pallone. All right, thank you. Let me go to
1100 spectrum.

1101 The subcommittee has worked on a bipartisan basis in the
1102 last few years to ensure that the FCC and the NTIA are
1103 routinely coordinating on spectrum. And I think that is
1104 important, given next year's World Radio Conference. So let
1105 me ask Ms. Alexander: What additional actions do you
1106 recommend the subcommittee take to ensure that NTIA and the
1107 FCC are coordinating on spectrum policy so that our country
1108 can speak with one voice at WRC-27, if you would?

1109 *Ms. Alexander. Thank you very much for the question.
1110 I would say hearings like this are a great start. I would
1111 say the letters that you guys have been sending are helpful,
1112 and it puts the pressure and it raises the profile and the
1113 priority on the issues. And it is important.

1114 And I would say one of the biggest challenges that I see
1115 on the spectrum side is this bifurcated process between the
1116 NTIA and the FCC and the need to have a de-confliction

1117 process early. I think often those processes will go and go
1118 and go, and then there is a conflict and we de-conflict very
1119 late in the process. For the rest of the ITU we do not have
1120 a bifurcated process. We have a single process and a single
1121 interagency to get ready for everything.

1122 So I think, if you are going to continue to have a
1123 bifurcated process, I would just encourage a senior-level
1124 assessment of having a de-confliction process much earlier so
1125 when people like Ambassador Lang have to lead the delegation
1126 they are prepared early on with the positions that they need
1127 to advocate for.

1128 *Mr. Pallone. Well, thank you.

1129 Mr. John, did you want to add anything on the spectrum
1130 policy that I mentioned?

1131 *Mr. John. Yes, please. And so Ms. Alexander actually
1132 highlighted the levers that you all can pull, and I think
1133 some of the substance of, like, what you would do in those
1134 hearings or letters or other outreach is important to
1135 highlight here.

1136 The first is -- we all kind of hit on it -- moving early
1137 is very important, but what does that actually mean?
1138 Plenipotentiary is in November of this year. We should have
1139 most of our, if not all, the final positions developed and
1140 concluded by the middle or, if not, the beginning of the
1141 summer.

1142 For the WRC-27 we have our second CITELE meeting in
1143 December. Again, we should be having our positions finalized
1144 as soon as possible this year so we have time to go and build
1145 those coalitions. And so driving some type of milestone-
1146 based schedule and making sure the agencies are sticking to
1147 it is very important.

1148 Another thing is staffing and expertise. Like, these
1149 folks at the agencies, they are very good, but they are
1150 overwhelmed with the amount of work. And so we want to make
1151 sure that they are properly staffed and they have the
1152 wherewithal to be able to participate in all these different
1153 processes that are ongoing simultaneously.

1154 Another thing that you had highlighted was the, I guess,
1155 the bifurcation of the FCC and NTIA in some of these
1156 processes. And one thing that I have observed and talked to
1157 some of the folks that have been doing this for a while is
1158 the RCS process with the NTIA, it happens in a closed room
1159 and FCC is an observer to it. And each of the members are
1160 allowed to bring an observer or two, as long as they are
1161 disclosed at the beginning of the meeting. And so perhaps a
1162 simple change is the FCC is allowed to bring a couple of its
1163 constituents to the meeting and they observe, so they can
1164 actually hear what is happening and they can try to actually
1165 address these issues in the other forum.

1166 And in the FCC WAC process, the NTIA folks and

1167 stakeholders are actually able to be observers in our
1168 process. And what we need to do is obviously develop these
1169 positions -- where we have non-reconcilable or non-consensus
1170 positions, we need to identify those issues very early, as I
1171 think Mr. Lang was saying. And so we need to identify those,
1172 we need to escalate them early. And if there are trade-offs
1173 that need to be made, we need to take a step back. It
1174 doesn't need to be a zero sum game all the time. Why don't
1175 we look at, for example, the FCC spectrum management
1176 principles that established a couple of years ago, right?

1177 There is always going to be a little bit of
1178 interference. There are responsibilities that both the
1179 transmitter and the receiver have to take, and all of these
1180 studies need to be grounded in some type of sound
1181 engineering. And so those are the different things that we
1182 need to be keeping in mind when we talk about substance.

1183 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you.

1184 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1185 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. The chair now recognizes the
1186 vice chair of the subcommittee, Mr. Allen, for five minutes
1187 for your questions.

1188 *Mr. Allen. Thank you, Chairman Hudson, for holding
1189 this hearing on the importance of U.S. preparation and
1190 participation in the World Radiocommunication Conference, and
1191 I thank all the witnesses for being here and testifying.

1192 Ambassador Lang, can you talk us through the Department
1193 of State's role in leading the delegation and how they work
1194 with other Federal agencies, including NTIA and the FCC, to
1195 ensure that the U.S. is adequately prepared for WRC?

1196 And then, what role should Congress play in that
1197 process?

1198 *Mr. Lang. Yes, thank you very much for the question.
1199 It is an important one.

1200 The State Department oversees the process overall. It
1201 is a continuing process. Immediately after the preceding
1202 WRC, the process begins to prepare studies and inputs for the
1203 next WRC, so there are a series of global ITU meetings in
1204 preparation, and we have an internal process that continues
1205 throughout the four-year cycle.

1206 The State Department, as I mentioned, oversees bringing
1207 the two tracks together led by FCC and NTIA. I think we have
1208 great teams in all of those agencies who have worked together
1209 very closely for quite some time. And the State Department,
1210 the head of delegation for the WRC, is the final decider on a
1211 lot of those issues.

1212 *Mr. Allen. Okay.

1213 *Mr. Lang. And I think Congress has an important role
1214 to play. Your raising attention to this important topic, I
1215 think, is very helpful.

1216 *Mr. Allen. Okay.

1217 *Mr. Lang. But I think this year we need to be mindful
1218 of resources, as well. The teams need to be resourced both
1219 in terms of personnel -- and Ms. Alexander highlighted some
1220 of those needs -- but they will also need resources to be
1221 able to engage effectively, diplomatically. There is a lot
1222 of travel that needs to take place in the months and years
1223 preceding the conference that is costly.

1224 And then we should also be creative about other types of
1225 diplomatic engagement. There has been some discussion of the
1226 potential for a spectrum summit hosted in the United States
1227 that could bring parties together and look for areas of
1228 common ground and build coalitions. We should consider
1229 things like providing training to regulators who will be
1230 participating in the conference.

1231 So there are a number of different resource implications
1232 that Congress should be aware of.

1233 *Mr. Allen. Ms. Alexander, if the U.S. were to reduce
1234 its engagement at the conference, what countries are most
1235 likely going to fill that vacuum, and what are the national
1236 security implications associated with their increased
1237 influence?

1238 *Ms. Alexander. Thank you very much for the question,
1239 and I will just observe, in my 20 years of doing ITU work,
1240 what I have seen is a market engagement of Asian countries,
1241 in particular China. So in some cases, when the U.S. or U.S.

1242 companies don't come, China comes, and China comes even more.
1243 And I think that will happen in this case, as well. If we
1244 are not there and we don't show up, they will, and they will
1245 show up in big numbers, and that will be bad for national
1246 security in the long run for us.

1247 *Mr. Allen. Thank you.

1248 Mr. John, do you have anything to add to that question?

1249 *Mr. John. Could you repeat that?

1250 *Mr. Allen. Yes, I will repeat. If the U.S. were to
1251 reduce its engagement at the conference, what countries are
1252 most likely going to fill the vacuum, and what are the
1253 national security implications associated with that increased
1254 influence?

1255 *Mr. John. I don't have anything to --

1256 *Mr. Allen. You don't have any -- okay.

1257 On a similar note, the next WRC will be held in
1258 Shanghai, China. Several of you mentioned in your testimony
1259 that the location of the conference raises broader
1260 geopolitical and security considerations. Mr. John, how is
1261 the industry thinking about its participation in Shanghai, if
1262 the company is still planning to participate?

1263 *Mr. John. Great question. So security access,
1264 operational feasibility are the things that they are
1265 considering. So think about use of VPNs or what kind of
1266 currency am I going to be using. Am I going to be

1267 surveilled? Will I have easy entry and exit opportunities?
1268 So these are things that the host country agreement do need
1269 to establish.

1270 And in the end I do believe most of U.S. industry will
1271 participate. It is a global-level treaty-making conference
1272 and they have huge stakes at play. And just from my
1273 experience, WRC-19 is relevant here. It was held in Sharm
1274 el-Sheikh, Egypt. To get into my hotel room I had to go
1275 through two sets of security. I could only take certain
1276 busses to the conference venue and back, and we weren't
1277 allowed to leave at all. And so it is not quite the same
1278 level of security issues, but there have been these types of
1279 situations in the past. And the State Department and others
1280 have --

1281 *Mr. Allen. Okay.

1282 *Mr. John. -- have been able to overcome.

1283 *Mr. Allen. All right. So precautions are taken.

1284 Ms. Alexander, what is the most likely outcome if the
1285 U.S. arrives divided on high-priority agenda items?

1286 And I got 16 seconds.

1287 *Ms. Alexander. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, for the
1288 question.

1289 I would say, you know, consistency matters. And if the
1290 United States shows up and different people in the U.S. are
1291 saying different things, then people don't take the U.S.

1292 seriously.

1293 *Mr. Allen. I see, yes.

1294 *Ms. Alexander. And that has happened when other
1295 countries have taken the microphone and one person says
1296 something and someone says something else from that same
1297 country. So we don't want that to be us.

1298 *Mr. Allen. Okay, thank you.

1299 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1300 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. The chair now recognizes the
1301 gentleman from Florida, Mr. Soto, for five minutes to ask
1302 your questions.

1303 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Chairman.

1304 Every day the world gets a little smaller, thanks to
1305 getting more interconnected because of technology, and
1306 especially telecommunications.

1307 In central Florida we are proud to host the busiest
1308 spaceport in the world; 90 percent of all space flight is
1309 happening there with SpaceX, Blue Origin, ULA. We see
1310 Starlink growing by the day. Kuiper belt starting to move
1311 along, as well, which is why I was proud to sponsor the
1312 Launch Communications Act with Dr. Dunn, where we are able to
1313 streamline the FCC permits for each of these launches. We
1314 had over 100 last year.

1315 So satellite spectrum, obviously, a huge part of the
1316 agenda going into the World Radiocommunication Conference.

1317 It is so critical for the free world, led by the United
1318 States, to be able to take these issues to Shanghai, China.
1319 You know, obviously, the venue can be ominous when we are
1320 talking about that.

1321 But I do question how free things are back home right
1322 now. We saw Chairman Carr has turned the FCC into the
1323 Federal censorship commission. He has attacked the free
1324 press for asking critical questions about the Iran War,
1325 "broadcasters that are running hoaxes and news distortions,
1326 also known as the fake news, have a chance now to correct
1327 their course before their license renewals come up.'" He is
1328 threatening major broadcasters for protected speech under the
1329 First Amendment for news activity that is critical for the
1330 American people to remain informed.

1331 And you add in the censorship of bad press to President
1332 Trump trying to fire Jimmy Kimmel and other late-night talk
1333 show and comedy hosts, and then a \$16 million extortion
1334 payment that went to Trump personally. How could we lead the
1335 free world abroad when we are struggling and see an
1336 administration attacking it at home? And this Congress
1337 continues to do nothing.

1338 Ambassador Lang, how important is it for us to defend
1339 freedoms at home? If we are going to go abroad and tell
1340 folks like China and Russia that, you know, we stand for
1341 freedom, we stand for making sure that we could have internet

1342 connectivity, rule of law, how critical is it for us to make
1343 sure we are protecting these values at home as we are
1344 negotiating abroad?

1345 *Mr. Lang. Well, thank you for the question. I guess I
1346 would just say that political issues can have an impact on
1347 our engagements internationally in the ITU. But in general,
1348 these are very technical conversations, especially for the
1349 WRC.

1350 What is important is that we engage frequently with our
1351 partners and allies, and also cast the net broadly to work
1352 with countries that may not have made -- in the middle ground
1353 that may have not made decisions yet on how they stand on
1354 some of the issues that we are working on. But that
1355 diplomatic engagement is absolutely critical throughout the
1356 process to make sure that we can promote the positions that
1357 we have decided are our priorities for the conference.

1358 *Mr. Soto. Sure, these are technical goals, but this is
1359 a diplomatic forum. Relationships matter. We have to win
1360 elections, which was talked about already.

1361 Changing the subject, Mr. Cavossa, thanks for being
1362 here. I appreciate the work you are doing to help out
1363 central Florida industries and commercial space. You talked
1364 a little bit about low-band and high-band spectrum. Can you
1365 go a little bit more into our priorities for this to make
1366 sure we could continue American space and telecommunications

1367 dominance?

1368 *Mr. Cavossa. Sure. Thank you for the question, and
1369 thank you for your support of the Launch Communications Act.

1370 As you noted, central Florida, a key location for the
1371 commercial space industry. There were over 200 launches last
1372 year in the United States -- in Florida, the vast majority of
1373 those. And that will continue to grow. I think, sir, within
1374 the next five years we are anticipating getting to multiple
1375 hundreds of launches a year, maybe 1,000 launches per year
1376 from the United States in the near future. So your work on
1377 the Launch Communication Act is very helpful.

1378 Also, you know, you are referring to commercial space,
1379 and the Artemis mission is a great example. You know, we are
1380 going back to the moon here in the next year or two. And the
1381 Artemis missions are very commercial-focused.

1382 *Mr. Soto. Sure, and hopefully a launch in April, too.
1383 We are all --

1384 *Mr. Cavossa. Exactly. Hopefully, April 1st or soon
1385 after.

1386 The commercial industry is a huge piece of the Artemis
1387 and the -- NASA's mission going forward, and the spectrum on
1388 the lunar surface, spectrum in cislunar space, very important
1389 to the commercial space industry, that it be protected, and
1390 those fights will happen at this WRC coming up.

1391 *Mr. Soto. We may have to establish moon time too,

1392 although I don't know if we will be able to do it at this
1393 conference.

1394 I was curious, how do you beam solar power down to the
1395 Earth? You had mentioned that in --

1396 *Mr. Cavossa. There are three different companies right
1397 now working on capturing solar energy and then either beaming
1398 it to satellites in Low Earth Orbit or beaming it back to the
1399 Earth. Way too complicated for me to get into in this
1400 meeting, but it is very cool stuff.

1401 *Mr. Soto. I just wanted to clarify, thought, that is
1402 actually a thing that we are working on.

1403 *Mr. Cavossa. Is actually a thing.

1404 *Mr. Soto. Thanks, and I yield back.

1405 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. It sounds like a pretty cool
1406 thing. Thank you for your questions.

1407 I will now recognize the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Latta,
1408 for --

1409 *Mr. Latta. Oh, thank you.

1410 *Mr. Hudson. -- five minutes.

1411 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and
1412 thanks for our witnesses for being with us today. You know,
1413 it is kind of unsettling. I remember sitting here several
1414 years ago talking about some of these issues that are before
1415 us today.

1416 And if I could start with you, Ambassador, in your

1417 testimony you said -- and it is kind of interesting -- you --
1418 like other multilateral bodies, the ITU and the WRC are
1419 flawed. Their bureaucracy has grown bloated over the years.
1420 Politics occasionally bleeds into technical conversation.
1421 Adversaries like Iran and Cuba have equal seats at the table.

1422 If I am not mistaken, have there been about 10 WRCs that
1423 have taken place?

1424 *Mr. Lang. I don't have the count for -- that sounds
1425 about right.

1426 *Mr. Latta. Okay.

1427 *Mr. Lang. I think the first one was in --

1428 *Mr. Latta. Well, my question is because what we are
1429 hearing today is a lot of the conversations of what we have
1430 been doing wrong. Have we been doing this wrong for over 10
1431 of the WRCs, or what has happened?

1432 *Mr. Lang. Well, I -- thank you for the question.

1433 I do think that the organizations are flawed, but I
1434 don't think that there is a better way to globally harmonize
1435 spectrum at this time. I think we do have to have wide
1436 representation internationally to make sure that we can deal
1437 with interference questions wherever they come up. I think
1438 we do need to have a government-led process that brings our
1439 national -- that can include our representation from our
1440 national security agencies and our transportation agencies
1441 that have critical interests in this space. And we also need

1442 to make sure that we have binding commitments that only
1443 governments can agree to.

1444 So although -- I guess maybe it is not a perfect system,
1445 but I think it is the best one that we have at this time.

1446 *Mr. Latta. Well, and again, in reading your testimony
1447 I found it interesting because, again, you know, it is -- you
1448 said that we have to recommit to win, which is -- I am never
1449 sure we should have ever said that we have to recommit. We
1450 should have always been in a position that we think about we
1451 wanted to win to begin with.

1452 But you also said -- and I found this interesting, too,
1453 what you said -- your number-one paragraph on the critical
1454 steps. You said that -- in talking about China narrowly
1455 winning with 25 out of the 48 votes, and its legitimacy as a
1456 host is already in question. Could you explain that?

1457 *Mr. Lang. Well, I think my point is mainly that, in
1458 general, the offer to host has been accepted essentially
1459 unanimously by the council without any kind of a vote
1460 whatsoever. Votes are quite rare in the ITU, and it
1461 generally means that there has been a problem in the process.

1462 So I think to have China win that vote so narrowly does
1463 call into question its position as the host.

1464 *Mr. Latta. Thank you.

1465 If I could turn to you, Mr. Cavossa, you know, again, I
1466 find your testimony interesting too, because you know that --

1467 we all know that everything is changing out there at
1468 breakneck speed. It is just -- we can't look at things that
1469 happened yesterday.

1470 The great thing about serving on this committee, we are
1471 always -- should be looking over the horizon 5 to 10 years,
1472 because that is where the innovators and the entrepreneurs
1473 are out there. And, you know, I think that, if you could,
1474 talking about U.S. positions in the past, you say a strong
1475 pro-innovation U.S. strategy at the ITU is especially
1476 necessary as our international competitors, particularly the
1477 CCP, advance their own space capabilities.

1478 Are we doing enough, and what should -- maybe what
1479 should Congress be doing to help you and to help as we go
1480 there?

1481 *Mr. Cavossa. Well, we are not doing enough, but
1482 hearings like this are a step in the right direction.
1483 Obviously, there was a hearing on the Senate side yesterday,
1484 as well, on this topic.

1485 But, you know, what we see, sir, is that at the end of
1486 the day the Administration has come out very aggressively in
1487 support of a national policy and support around satellite
1488 communications and space and driving this country forward.
1489 We want to see that reflect in the U.S. delegation's approach
1490 to the ITU.

1491 And this committee talking about that issue and bringing

1492 it up and sending letters is a great step in the right
1493 direction, sir.

1494 *Mr. Latta. Okay, thank you.

1495 And Ms. Alexander, in my last 29 seconds, are we -- as
1496 you are looking at what is happening right now, are we
1497 prepared?

1498 *Ms. Alexander. Thank you for the question.

1499 I think we are never fully prepared because we are
1500 always preparing. You have to always do the work. You have
1501 to show up. We are always doing something.

1502 And I think one of the things that I have observed over
1503 my -- the years -- and your question that you asked
1504 Ambassador Lang -- I think we have succeeded in the United
1505 States, or in the ITU over the last 20 years. Doreen's
1506 election, both to the development sector and as the first
1507 woman to ever run this institution, is a testament to the
1508 work that we have done to make this happen. But we have to
1509 keep at it. It is -- nothing is a given. You have to show
1510 up, you have to do the work, you have to keep fighting. Just
1511 because you win once doesn't mean you win the next time. You
1512 always have to do everything, and you always have to make --
1513 put in the hard work.

1514 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you.

1515 My time is expired and I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

1516 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. The chair now recognizes the

1517 representative from New York, Ms. Clarke, for five minutes to
1518 ask your questions.

1519 *Ms. Clarke. Good afternoon, and thank you, Chairman
1520 Hudson and Ranking Member Matsui, for holding this important
1521 hearing, and thank you to our panel of witnesses for joining
1522 us today.

1523 The work of the International Telecommunication Union,
1524 ITU, may not always make headlines, but the decisions made by
1525 this body help power our daily lives and technologies we use,
1526 including wireless networks and satellite systems. Simply
1527 put, what happens at the ITU, including their upcoming World
1528 Radiocommunication Conference, the WRC-27, will help
1529 determine who writes the rules for the next generation of
1530 global communications technologies.

1531 At first glance, discussions about spectrum allocation
1532 and satellite coordination at the WRC-27 may seem highly
1533 technical. But the reality is that these decisions have
1534 direct daily consequences for the American people that can
1535 affect the cost of your wireless bill, the speed and
1536 reliability of your internet connection, whether you have in-
1537 flight Wi-Fi and it works, whether first responders can
1538 communicate during crises, and whether underserved
1539 communities both here at home and globally can access the
1540 digital economy.

1541 As we approach WRC-27 we must be clear about what it

1542 will take to succeed under a one-country/one-vote system:
1543 diplomacy, coalition building, technical credibility, and
1544 sustained engagement. The U.S. delegation must show up
1545 unified across agencies, prepared with clear priorities, and
1546 ready to lead. That leadership starts at the top.

1547 It is critically important that we support the
1548 reelection of Secretary General Doreen Bogdan-Martin. Her
1549 continued leadership is essential to furthering our
1550 interests, and we -- at a moment when having a leader who
1551 understands both the technical and diplomatic dimensions, as
1552 Secretary General Bogdan-Martin does, is more important than
1553 ever.

1554 At a time when other nations are actively working to
1555 shape the rules of the road in ways that may not align with
1556 our interests or values, we cannot afford to retreat. We
1557 must strengthen alliances, engage developing nations, and
1558 ensure global frameworks remain open, interoperable, and
1559 innovation-driven. To do this we must ensure that here at
1560 home we are resolving interagency differences, fully
1561 resourcing our delegation, and engaging industry and
1562 technical experts.

1563 If we can move on one accord and prepare correctly, we
1564 can lower costs for consumers, expand access to connectivity,
1565 strengthen U.S. innovation, and ensure that the global
1566 communications ecosystem reflects our values. If, however,

1567 we get it wrong, we seek [sic] ceding that leadership, and
1568 the consequences will be felt directly by American households
1569 and businesses alike. I think that sums up what I have heard
1570 from you all today.

1571 So my question, Ambassador Lang: Given your experience
1572 in this space, is -- what does effective coalition-building
1573 actually look like on the ground?

1574 Are we doing enough today to build those relationships?

1575 And what do you see as the biggest gap in our current
1576 diplomatic engagement?

1577 *Mr. Lang. Well, thank you very much for the question,
1578 and I think that we are doing a lot right now but we need to
1579 keep doing more to be successful. And that need -- that pace
1580 needs to increase as we get closer and closer to the
1581 conference.

1582 And a lot of it is retail diplomacy, going out and
1583 meeting our counterparts in the various preparatory meetings
1584 that are taking place around the world. We need to make sure
1585 that senior-level U.S. officials are brought into the
1586 process, as well, and able to engage with their counterparts.

1587 And another important part of this, as Ms. Alexander
1588 mentioned earlier, is we need to listen to our counterparts
1589 and hear from them on what their priorities are, and look for
1590 places where there are common ground and that we can work
1591 together.

1592 *Ms. Clarke. Very well. I hope that that is happening.
1593 You know, I really, really do. I don't want to be cynical,
1594 but I think that, you know, we have got to see ourselves as
1595 one team to make this really, really happen, and anything
1596 short of that, we lose. We have to make that clear to
1597 everyone. Anything short of that, from the White House to
1598 the Congress, we lose.

1599 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my
1600 time.

1601 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you very much. The chair now
1602 recognizes the gentleman from Idaho, Mr. Fulcher, for five
1603 minutes to ask your questions.

1604 *Mr. Fulcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, to the panel for
1605 being here and for your input. I appreciate you so much.
1606 And I too have some concerns that I would just like to flesh
1607 out a little bit with you.

1608 Ms. Alexander, in your testimony you mentioned that the
1609 U.S. is ITU's largest contributor. I think it was in the
1610 neighborhood of about 14 million. Do you have any idea how
1611 much China sources would contribute, and perhaps maybe who
1612 rounds out the top five? If you know that information.

1613 *Ms. Alexander. Thank you for the question. I don't
1614 know that I have the specifics offhand anymore. Ambassador
1615 Lang may remember more specifically than me.

1616 The 14 million that we pay to the ITU a year is a self-

1617 assessed contribution. We decide how much to give the ITU,
1618 just like every country decides how much they give. We are
1619 the largest contributor at 14 million a year with the current
1620 currency conversion, and that is about 7 percent of the ITU's
1621 budget.

1622 I think the traditional other large donors historically
1623 had been Canada, France, Japan, and Germany. But over the
1624 years those countries have slowly reduced their
1625 contributions. I think it is just the U.S. at 35 units. The
1626 Chinese Government was never a large donor. They have always
1627 been a smaller donor.

1628 You can also give money to the ITU through what are
1629 called voluntary contributions which are directed
1630 contributions for specific activities, and I believe some
1631 countries have gone that route versus contributing to the
1632 general budget.

1633 *Mr. Fulcher. Does the amount that a country
1634 contributes tend to have an impact on its influence with the
1635 ITU?

1636 *Ms. Alexander. Not under the rules of procedure. But
1637 obviously, sure, it definitely matters if you are the person
1638 that, you know, gives a lot of money to the institution and
1639 you have a sway.

1640 What matters, though, is showing up, showing up
1641 informed, showing up educated, and showing up knowing the

1642 rules of procedure to know how to make the institution work
1643 for you.

1644 *Mr. Fulcher. It sounds like a good E&C Committee
1645 member, by the way.

1646 *Ms. Alexander. I was always reminded over the years
1647 that my job at NTIA was very similar to your job over -- up
1648 here, so --

1649 *Mr. Fulcher. Yes, I don't know.

1650 Mr. Lang, do you have any comments on that subject
1651 matter?

1652 *Mr. Lang. I think Ms. Alexander has summed things up
1653 very well. Thanks.

1654 *Mr. Fulcher. Okay. Mr. Lang, in your testimony you
1655 note the ITU's bureaucracy has grown bloated -- was that
1656 quote -- over politics occasionally leading to technical
1657 conversations. Adversaries like Iran and Cuba have seats at
1658 the table. Do you foresee at the WRC-27 -- do you think Iran
1659 and Cuba are going to have seats at the table?

1660 *Mr. Lang. Yes, they -- in all likelihood they will be
1661 there and will be in the negotiations.

1662 *Mr. Fulcher. You list four critical steps for the U.S.
1663 Government to win. Topping the list is keeping the pressure
1664 on China, which -- I think most of us agree on that. Take a
1665 minute, if you would. And with holding China accountable as
1666 kind of the pretext of this question, can you describe, like,

1667 a worst case-best case? Best case if we hold them
1668 accountable, worst case if we don't, what happens? Best
1669 case, worst case.

1670 *Mr. Lang. Well, I think the worst case we need to
1671 prepare for is that China would structure the informal
1672 conversations that take place on the side of the conference
1673 in such a way that the U.S. would not have a seat at the
1674 table, and that at some point the U.S. would be presented
1675 with something that was -- that other parties were looking at
1676 as an agreed consensus, and that we would be pressured to
1677 accept.

1678 So I think what is important is for us to make sure that
1679 we are -- we have a seat at the table at every -- in every
1680 single conversation that takes place.

1681 *Mr. Fulcher. That is a worst case. What is the best
1682 case?

1683 *Mr. Lang. Best case is that they actually conduct it
1684 in a transparent and fair manner. I think that they will be
1685 under a lot of pressure. They will want this conference to
1686 be viewed as a success widely. So I think there is reason to
1687 think that they will want to have a successful conference
1688 that is viewed favorably.

1689 *Mr. Fulcher. I have got another minute. If anyone
1690 else on the panel has a -- wants to weigh in on that, I am
1691 open to it. If not, I will yield. But anyone else?

1692 Okay, Mr. Chairman, with that I yield.

1693 *Mr. Allen. [Presiding.] The gentleman yields. Okay,
1694 Mr. Menendez, you are recognized for five minutes for your
1695 questioning.

1696 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman.

1697 Every four years the International Telecommunication
1698 Union convenes the World Radiocommunication Conference so
1699 that stakeholders from around the world can harmonize
1700 spectrum for wireless and satellite uses. While the WRC is
1701 an event only a selected group of policy experts are involved
1702 in, its work has a direct daily impact on how Americans
1703 communicate.

1704 Our district has a high concentration of critical
1705 infrastructure and is home to a diverse population, including
1706 many residents born outside the United States. This makes
1707 the WRC's work to support trusted suppliers, expand access to
1708 connectivity, and enable seamless international wireless
1709 communication vital to the communities I have the privilege
1710 of representing.

1711 We have heard today about the importance of the United
1712 States entering the WRC with a strong, unified message to
1713 support America's edge over China and promote our national
1714 economic and security interests. Doing so will benefit all
1715 American families.

1716 Ambassador Lang, just yes or no, is collaboration with

1717 our global partners at the WRC to support trusted suppliers
1718 important for protecting Americans living in areas with
1719 extensive critical infrastructure?

1720 *Mr. Lang. Yes.

1721 *Mr. Menendez. Can you elaborate on that?

1722 *Mr. Lang. Yes. I think that what is -- on the topic
1723 of trusted supply, which I think is very critical, what we
1724 want to make sure is that China does not gain an advantage
1725 that -- for its suppliers through the process. If China is
1726 successful in promoting its approach to radio frequency
1727 spectrum through the WRC, then their domestic champions like
1728 Huawei and ZTE will have greater economies of scale by being
1729 able to produce the same equipment internationally that they
1730 produce for their own domestic market. And if that gives
1731 them an advantage in third-country markets around the world,
1732 then that is a problem for us and for critical infrastructure
1733 in those countries.

1734 *Mr. Menendez. And what are some specific ways that you
1735 think that we can better the balance, achieve that when we go
1736 into these conversations?

1737 *Mr. Lang. I do think it is pretty much the same
1738 recommendations that we have been talking about, to make sure
1739 that we have our positions lined up as early as possible and
1740 that we are engaging aggressively.

1741 *Mr. Menendez. All right, I appreciate that.

1742 Another critical priority is expanding access to
1743 reliable connectivity and innovative digital technologies.
1744 Mr. John, just yes or no, will the WRC's work to make more
1745 spectrum available for wireless and satellite uses help close
1746 the digital divide by ensuring that all people have access to
1747 connectivity and digital technologies?

1748 *Mr. John. Yes.

1749 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you. Mr. John, in a few words,
1750 how can the United States advance policies at next year's WRC
1751 that ensures all American families have equitable access to
1752 connectivity and digital technologies?

1753 *Mr. John. So connectivity comes in all forms and
1754 colors. We have different agenda items that are highlighting
1755 mobile broadband, as well as the converged mobile and
1756 satellite types of connectivity. And so, as we have
1757 discussed a couple of times here, the -- we can get the
1758 international economies of scale that we seek to lower the
1759 costs for consumers, and increase the speed and how we can
1760 deploy these facilities, and all of this is couched in us
1761 doing studies early, getting those positions done this year
1762 as opposed to next year, and making sure that we build these
1763 coalitions early and fortify them so they can withstand China
1764 and others.

1765 *Mr. Menendez. I appreciate that. Seamless and
1766 reliable international communication is critical for the

1767 communities I represent. This will be on full display when
1768 thousands of fans from around the world travel to New Jersey
1769 for the FIFA World Cup finals this summer. Ensuring that
1770 these fans can stay connected to family and friends will be
1771 essential not only for convenience, but also for accessing
1772 critical services including public safety.

1773 Ms. Alexander, in a few words, as fans from around the
1774 world travel to the U.S. for the FIFA World Cup this summer,
1775 how do international spectrum decisions made through the WRC
1776 process support reliable connectivity and interoperability
1777 for international visitors to the U.S.?

1778 *Ms. Alexander. Thank you very much for the question,
1779 and we have come a long way since my first international trip
1780 for work, where I was given a government device, which I am
1781 pretty sure was a BlackBerry, that did not work when we were
1782 in Japan. So we are way beyond that because of the decisions
1783 that are made at the ITU to ensure interference-free,
1784 efficient, and equitable use of wireless services worldwide.
1785 So when those international spectators come, they will be
1786 able to rely entirely on the global coordination to
1787 seamlessly connect their devices to local networks and access
1788 essential services when they are here.

1789 *Mr. Menendez. Great, I appreciate that, and I
1790 appreciate today's bipartisan collaboration to examine how
1791 best to advance U.S. interests at the WRC. It is essential

1792 that the U.S. delegation speaks with a unified voice that
1793 strengthens American competitiveness while prioritizing
1794 secure, reliable, and equitable connectivity for American
1795 consumers.

1796 Thank you, and I yield back.

1797 *Mr. Allen. The gentleman yields. I now recognize Mr.
1798 Pfluger for your five minutes of questioning.

1799 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the
1800 witnesses.

1801 In September I sent a letter to the Administration
1802 regarding China's hosting of the 2027 World
1803 Radiocommunication Conference in China, and the related
1804 national security and economic competitive risk associated
1805 with that. And as noted, this event allows China to
1806 influence agenda-setting and policy decisions, raising
1807 concerns about potential espionage.

1808 And I request that the letter and the U.S. Economic and
1809 Security Review Commission report on China's management of
1810 electromagnetic spectrum resources be entered into the
1811 record, Mr. Chairman, both the letter and the report.

1812 *Mr. Allen. Yes. No objection.

1813 [The information follows:]

1814

1815 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1816

1817 *Mr. Pfluger. The report highlights that one of China's
1818 four main spectrum objectives is to promote the adoption of
1819 Chinese standards for electromagnetic spectrum management at
1820 international organizations.

1821 And I have been working on legislation to promote the
1822 U.S. participation in priority international standards-
1823 setting bodies, and to grant the Secretary of State authority
1824 to withhold funds from organizations led by adversaries.
1825 While this bill focuses heavily on government-led
1826 participation, it is important to recognize that private,
1827 industry-led bodies such as 3GPP and IEEE are equally
1828 considered for U.S. technological competitiveness.

1829 And furthermore, we know that China subsidizes its
1830 industries' participation in those bodies through state-
1831 backed companies like Huawei and ZTE.

1832 Mr. Lang, I will start with you. Does the current U.S.
1833 approach adequately address that gap, and is there a role for
1834 Congress in leveling that playing field?

1835 *Mr. Lang. Well, thank you for the question. I think
1836 this is a very important topic.

1837 And I do think that when I left government and the State
1838 Department, we had increased the level of attention that we
1839 were paying to those standards bodies such as 3GPP and IEEE.
1840 I do think that there is more work than can be done there,
1841 that the United States can be more effective in encouraging

1842 the industry participation and in facilitating communication
1843 and coordination among our participants.

1844 It is -- I think we don't want to replicate China's
1845 model, but I think we can learn from what they have done in
1846 some of the standard bodies.

1847 *Mr. Pfluger. Well, I appreciate that. You kind of
1848 alluded a little bit to it, but do you think that the
1849 legislation actually reaches into private standards, you
1850 know, well enough? Are there revisions, things that you
1851 would do?

1852 I mean, what is your assessment of the provision? How
1853 would you address it in that aspect? Governmental versus
1854 non-governmental, if you will.

1855 *Mr. Lang. Well, I -- thank you. I guess I would just
1856 say that I do think that there is room for the U.S.
1857 Government to be more proactive in terms of working with
1858 industry to make sure that U.S. strategic interests are
1859 protected in industry-led standards bodies such as 3GPP and
1860 IEEE.

1861 *Mr. Pfluger. Okay, thank you. The United States,
1862 obviously, is obviously is the largest financial contributor
1863 to the UN, and yet adversaries have systematically secured
1864 leadership positions in these organizations that are funded
1865 by American taxpayers.

1866 In addition, the legislation that I am discussing

1867 authorizes the Secretary of State to withhold contributions
1868 from any standards body chaired by a national -- by someone
1869 of a foreign adversary or state sponsor of terrorism. And
1870 this provision is intended as a leverage tool, not a
1871 withdrawal strategy. But China contributes far less to these
1872 bodies than the U.S. does, yet gains disproportionate
1873 influence through coordinated delegations, leadership
1874 appointments, and block voting.

1875 Ms. Alexander, I will point to you on this. In your
1876 experience engaging with the ITU, do you believe that a
1877 credible and legally available threat of withholding U.S.
1878 contributions would meaningfully strengthen the hand of U.S.
1879 diplomats in leadership elections?

1880 *Ms. Alexander. Thank you very much for the question.

1881 I think it is hard to answer that specifically because
1882 each institution is very different, right? The ITU is an
1883 intergovernmental institution that allows private-sector
1884 members, and 3GPP, IETF, other institutions work differently.
1885 I don't think withholding funds necessarily gives leverage to
1886 better outcomes for the United States.

1887 What I think wins the United States is being prepared.
1888 And when it comes to standards development processes, our
1889 historical support for bottom-up, industry-led standards has
1890 worked and worked well for us. What could be enhanced is
1891 what Ambassador Lang has referenced, is coordination and

1892 making sure that the U.S. Government is working with and
1893 working in lockstep with industry to achieve our objectives.

1894 *Mr. Pfluger. Well, talking about the WRC that is
1895 upcoming and the coordination that you think needs to happen,
1896 I mean, how behind are we? And what needs to happen in order
1897 to be -- to catch up?

1898 *Ms. Alexander. For WRC, you know, again, I am not as
1899 intimately as involved as some of the folks on the panel as
1900 the -- in WRC preparations and the committees. But my
1901 observation historically is that these processes can be slow,
1902 and they can be cumbersome because spectrum is hard, right?
1903 You guys know that better than I do. And it is hard to
1904 sometimes de-conflict and resolve these competing priorities.
1905 But that needs to happen, and it needs to happen faster for
1906 us to be effective in these environments.

1907 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you.

1908 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1909 *Mr. Allen. The gentleman yields, and now I recognize
1910 Representative Ruiz for his five minutes -- Ruiz for his five
1911 minutes of questioning.

1912 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1913 *Mr. Allen. Yes, sir. I will get it right eventually.

1914 *Mr. Ruiz. As the world continues rolling out 5G
1915 networks and begins planning for 6G, the U.S. is at an
1916 important moment. The decisions we make today about

1917 spectrum, the airwaves that carry wireless signals, will
1918 shape our economy, our infrastructure, and our ability to
1919 compete globally for decades to come.

1920 These issues will also be front and center at the
1921 upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference 2027, or the
1922 WRC-27, where countries from around the world will meet to
1923 discuss how different positions of spectrum should be used.
1924 And put simply, spectrum is what allows our phones to connect
1925 to the internet, our first responders to communicate, and our
1926 wireless networks to function. When countries align around
1927 the same spectrum bands for similar technologies, it allows
1928 equipment to be built at scale, reduces interference, and
1929 ultimately lowers costs for consumers.

1930 The United States has already taken several important
1931 steps. We have identified spectrum for 5G and 6G deployment,
1932 including portions of the C-band, and we opened the 6
1933 gigahertz band for unlicensed use, supporting faster Wi-Fi
1934 and new wireless technologies.

1935 Unlicensed spectrum plays a critical role in everyday
1936 life. Hospitals, for example, rely heavily on Wi-Fi
1937 operating in unlicensed spectrum to connect medical devices,
1938 patients' monitors, and internal communication systems. I am
1939 a physician, so I bring up the hospital example. This
1940 reliable wireless connectivity can be essential for
1941 delivering timely care and ensuring hospital operations run

1942 smoothly.

1943 At the same time, spectrum policy often requires
1944 balancing several competing uses: commercial wireless
1945 services, government systems, satellite operations, and
1946 unlicensed uses like Wi-Fi that altogether support hospitals,
1947 schools, and businesses.

1948 Mr. John, as our country starts to develop proposals for
1949 the various WRC-27 agenda items, how should U.S. policy-
1950 makers approach these trade-offs to ensure that global
1951 spectrum policy supports innovation while also maintaining
1952 sufficient spectrum for all of these critical use cases?

1953 *Mr. John. Thank you very much for that question, and
1954 you highlighted the very robust situation we have here in the
1955 United States with so many different spectrum users.

1956 And in the past it has been, as I mentioned before, like
1957 a zero sum game. One party has to win, another party has to
1958 lose. And so we need to go back to the fundamentals: A,
1959 let's put aside the rhetoric that we hear in a lot of the
1960 different processes and actually get down to the technical,
1961 the engineering. And so, if you look at those spectrum
1962 management principles, there is considerations of
1963 interference on both sides of the link, the transmitter as
1964 well as the receiver. And so that, plus us grounding our
1965 studies in realistic assumptions as opposed to always having
1966 the worst case type of scenario that was envisioned in 1960s

1967 or 1970s, we need to move past that. And when we are able to
1968 actually combine these two things, we don't really have to
1969 pick winners or losers. Let the science, let the math
1970 actually define it.

1971 *Mr. Ruiz. Yes, thank you. You know, at the same time
1972 other countries are moving quickly. China has allocated a
1973 large portion of the upper 6 gigahertz band for mobile
1974 services and Europe has also begun identifying parts of that
1975 band for mobile use.

1976 Ambassador Lang, given your experience working on
1977 international telecommunications policy, how important is it
1978 for the U.S. to lead global discussions on spectrum as we
1979 approach the next World Radiocommunication Conference?

1980 *Mr. Lang. Well, thank you for the question. I think
1981 it is absolutely critical that the United States lead these
1982 conversations. If we don't, then somebody else will. And
1983 China will be first in line to --

1984 *Mr. Ruiz. And so what are the risks if China are able
1985 to use WRC-27 to advantage their homegrown companies like
1986 Huawei, who would like to dominate the global market for
1987 mobile infrastructure networking services? What are those
1988 risks?

1989 *Mr. Lang. Right. I think we already see that Huawei
1990 and other Chinese champions like ZTE are very competitive in
1991 markets around the world, and we need to continue to push

1992 back against --

1993 *Mr. Ruiz. Is that a national security risk?

1994 *Mr. Lang. It is definitely a national security risk.

1995 *Mr. Ruiz. How?

1996 *Mr. Lang. Well, it means that it gives Chinese
1997 Government access to data traveling over their networks and
1998 increases the access that China has to intelligence, and also
1999 increases risks to critical infrastructure in those countries
2000 that use that equipment.

2001 *Mr. Ruiz. So Ambassador, will you be there at the WRC-
2002 27?

2003 *Mr. Lang. I don't have plans to be there right now.

2004 *Mr. Ruiz. Oh, okay. Bummer. All right, well, I hope
2005 the people that are there understand the assignment. Thank
2006 you.

2007 *Mr. Allen. All right. The gentleman yields and Mr.
2008 Goldman from Texas --

2009 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2010 *Mr. Allen. -- you are recognized for five minutes.

2011 *Mr. Goldman. I appreciate it. I will be brief.

2012 Mr. Cavossa, you talked about that the Senate had a
2013 hearing -- was it yesterday -- on this very subject. After
2014 hearing all this, what did the Senate talk about that we
2015 haven't brought up that we need to know? Since we don't pay
2016 -- you know, we are not watching the Senate.

2017 *Mr. Cavossa. Yes, I have to plead ignorance myself in
2018 that I wasn't watching the hearing, but I assume it was much
2019 of the same, sir.

2020 *Mr. Goldman. Okay. Was -- anyone else on the panel
2021 watch the hearing yesterday in the Senate?

2022 Yes, sir, Ambassador. What do we need to know that you
2023 maybe learned yesterday that we haven't talked about today?

2024 *Mr. Lang. I think this conversation has been quite
2025 comprehensive, and I -- no major gaps are coming to mind.

2026 *Mr. Goldman. Okay. All right, thank you, Ambassador.

2027 Mr. John, given the rapid growth of the satellite
2028 industry in Low Earth Orbit constellations, why have key
2029 International Telecommunication Union regulations for
2030 satellites not been updated in over 20 years?

2031 *Mr. John. So the ITU radio regulations, four volumes
2032 deep, thousands of pages long, hundreds of footnotes, and it
2033 is very hard, right, to get through a four-year process and
2034 try to update all of it simultaneously. And so that is why
2035 this particular WRC agenda is very important. There is a
2036 substantial effort here to modernize a lot of those outdated
2037 or relevant rules that we see.

2038 *Mr. Goldman. And how does this lag affect innovation,
2039 competition, and space safety?

2040 *Mr. John. So on the first few points about competition
2041 and innovation, we are hindering our own companies, right,

2042 from providing maximum capacity for broadband connectivity,
2043 for example. And in terms of innovation, there are plenty of
2044 companies that have not been actually able to take off. My
2045 colleague here had highlighted a number of the new weird
2046 space companies, and they just don't have access to spectrum
2047 because there aren't allocations or there aren't rules
2048 written for the way they want to actually operate, even
2049 though they have very innovative opportunities here.

2050 On the topic of space safety, it is actually very
2051 interesting because right now it is not within the ITU's
2052 mandate. And it is something that Brazil has been coming to
2053 the forefront at the plenipotentiary and at the actual ITU to
2054 try to get it more involved. And so, historically, I think
2055 -- and for the past couple of years -- the U.S. position has
2056 been the ITU is not the appropriate forum. UNOOSA, or the
2057 United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, is the
2058 appropriate forum. And so TBD on how the U.S. progresses on
2059 that front for space safety.

2060 *Mr. Goldman. Yes, well, that is what I was going to
2061 ask. So what steps does the U.S. need to take to modernize
2062 the rules?

2063 *Mr. John. For space safety or for just satellites or
2064 regulations?

2065 *Mr. Goldman. All the above.

2066 [Laughter.]

2067 *Mr. John. So I have to be careful here because we are
2068 still developing the positions through the FCC WAC process.
2069 But the general principle is we need to take a first-
2070 principles approach here, and we want to ensure that we are
2071 looking at actual sound assumptions, we are not using
2072 assumptions in the 60s or 70s. We want to make sure that the
2073 actual conversations we are having are data-driven rather
2074 than rhetoric. And if you are able to do that, you can push
2075 aside one party having to win all the time. You could
2076 actually have multiple people coexisting, and all thriving in
2077 the same environment.

2078 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you very much.

2079 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back the balance of my
2080 time. Those are all my questions.

2081 *Mr. Allen. The gentleman yields. And Mr. Landsman,
2082 Representative Landsman, you are recognized for five minutes
2083 of your questions.

2084 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the
2085 ranking member and all of you for being here.

2086 So the conference -- you know, we have talked about, you
2087 know, preparing, and what needs to be true, really, from a
2088 security and competitiveness standpoint. So because you have
2089 talked about almost everything, I don't want to be -- I don't
2090 want to just, you know, go over things you have already
2091 covered. So question is around what is missing. You know

2092 what -- you know, similar to Mr. Goldman's question, what
2093 haven't we talked about?

2094 But the one piece that stands out to me -- and maybe
2095 this isn't an issue -- is that you have got all these big
2096 companies that participate or are in a position to
2097 participate. But mid-size companies and certainly small
2098 businesses cannot and -- or they don't. Or maybe they do, I
2099 don't know. So I am curious what that means. You know, is
2100 it bad that they are not in the room? Are they in the room?
2101 How do we make sure, if they need to be in the room, they are
2102 in the room? What should we be, you know, thinking about or
2103 advocating for as it relates to these mid-size companies that
2104 don't have the same capacity to get over there?

2105 And I will start with you, Mr. Ambassador.

2106 *Mr. Lang. No, thank you for the question. I think
2107 that is an important one, and I think it is a matter of
2108 resources that small and medium-sized companies just don't
2109 have the capacity to match what the big companies can do in
2110 this process.

2111 I think that is where it becomes all the more important
2112 for the United States Government and its representatives in
2113 the process to be thinking about the impact that this has on
2114 smaller companies and the innovation environment more
2115 generally. I don't know of a silver bullet to enable them to
2116 be a part of the process, so I do think there is an

2117 additional need for our U.S. Government officials to be very
2118 cautious -- be very cognizant of that issue.

2119 *Mr. Landsman. And maybe that is just, you know, as we
2120 are advocating or checking in, that we are, you know, asking,
2121 pushing on this question about how additional companies
2122 beyond the big folks and how they are, you know, involved and
2123 their input is being pursued.

2124 *Ms. Alexander. Thank you for the question, and I think
2125 it is important to understand for these major conferences and
2126 treaty negotiations, the U.S. can have a very large
2127 delegation. Not everyone has to be on the ground. You can
2128 have a home team, which we always have as well. The State
2129 Department runs a very fulsome process. Trade associations
2130 are also part of this conversation, not just companies
2131 themselves.

2132 And the way these conferences work is you have a
2133 plenary, you have multiple working groups, you have working
2134 parties, you have drafting groups, you have ad hocs. You
2135 could have 10 or 15 conversations happening at the same time.
2136 So you need everyone there. You need a U.S. spokesperson for
2137 every issue. You need a spokesperson surrounded by some
2138 government and industry experts. You need everyone there.

2139 And you can also sort of role-playing-game these
2140 conversations out. When I first started doing ITU work there
2141 was no phone bridge, you had to show up in person. It was

2142 two hours every Tuesday and Thursday with industry working
2143 through the papers, writing the positions, and then a
2144 government meeting on top of that after that. The U.S.
2145 delegation also would meet every morning at 8:00 a.m. and
2146 coordinate what is going to happen for the day.

2147 So you need to be properly resourced, right? Whether
2148 you are a government agency or whether you are a company. So
2149 I think that is something that we really need to make sure we
2150 are doing and that we have taken care of -- that we haven't
2151 covered today.

2152 *Mr. Landsman. Yes, I hadn't considered the trade
2153 associations, and certainly didn't know about the home base
2154 and the alternative ways to participate. So very helpful.

2155 *Mr. John. Actually on the trade associations, you have
2156 one right here. But more importantly, there is an
2157 organization called the U.S. ITUA, and it has, I think, a
2158 very nominal fee to join, or no fee to participate, and make
2159 sure you are at least staying educated on these matters. And
2160 you don't have to actually go to the WRC. Then you have at
2161 least the info flowing and you can contribute through that
2162 avenue.

2163 There is another organization, Commercial Smallsat
2164 Spectrum Management Association, where they can have an
2165 observer status. You don't actually have to pay anything.
2166 You can participate.

2167 Separately from the trade associations, something that
2168 is very unique about the FCC WAC process is, yes, you have to
2169 apply to become a member, and there are plenty of companies
2170 that might not be paying attention, don't become members, but
2171 that is okay. Once the WAC establishes its recommendations,
2172 it submits them to the FCC. The FCC then places it on public
2173 notice, so it is published in the Federal Register. A lot of
2174 news outlets pick it up. It is a good way for companies that
2175 might not want to be always participating, they can
2176 contribute as needed.

2177 *Mr. Landsman. Last 10 seconds, sorry.

2178 *Mr. Cavossa. No, just to hit on the trade association
2179 comment, we represent over 80 space companies and we are a
2180 consensus-based organization. So we actually do some of that
2181 work of building consensus before even going.

2182 *Mr. Landsman. Sure. I was just -- the other trade
2183 associations too, I suspect, could participate. So all
2184 right, thank you.

2185 And I yield back.

2186 *Mr. Allen. The gentleman yields. And Mrs. Fedorchak,
2187 you are recognized for five minutes for your questions.

2188 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Thank you all. Thank you for your
2189 participation today and taking time out of your busy
2190 schedules to join us and share your wisdom and experience. A
2191 lot of my questions have been asked, so I am just going to

2192 stick with a couple that I feel haven't been addressed yet,
2193 at least when I have been here.

2194 So Mr. John, you outline a pathway where the U.S. works
2195 through CITELE to build regional alignment ahead of the WRC-
2196 27. Given China's growing economic and infrastructure
2197 presence in Latin America, can we assume those countries will
2198 align with us, or are we already competing for their support?

2199 *Mr. John. Thank you for the question.

2200 So we did see the last WRC cycle that there were certain
2201 countries in the CITELE region that did side with China on
2202 certain issues. And so we are again trying to build up new
2203 coalitions. We are having our next CITELE meeting down in
2204 Dominica in about two or three weeks, and so we will have a
2205 better idea of where things stand.

2206 But we know behind the scenes shortly China is going to
2207 be making its best efforts to try to build as big of a
2208 coalition not only in the CITELE region, but as many of these
2209 different ITU regions.

2210 *Mrs. Fedorchak. And what are they using to
2211 successfully get people on their side? And how are their
2212 positions different from what we want?

2213 *Mr. John. So in terms of what they are doing, we have
2214 seen things like subsidies, we have seen other things and
2215 just support in negotiations. And so that is how they have
2216 been able to influence outside of their own relative region.

2217 I am sorry, it looks like he has something to
2218 contribute.

2219 *Mr. Cavossa. If I can also add --

2220 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Absolutely.

2221 *Mr. Cavossa. I mean, the Chinese have something called
2222 the Belt and Road Initiative --

2223 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Yes.

2224 *Mr. Cavossa. -- and they have an equivalent of that in
2225 the space realm called -- that they sort of call their Space
2226 Silk Road, where they are investing in the space programs of
2227 developed and developing nations and supporting them. And by
2228 no surprise, those nations tend to lean toward the Chinese
2229 when it comes to these deliberations.

2230 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Okay. Sticking with you, Mr. Cavossa,
2231 the ITU rules apply globally, so in theory they should
2232 constrain all countries equally. Why do you believe that
2233 those rules disproportionately disadvantage U.S. companies?

2234 And how might competitors like China still gain an edge
2235 under a framework that is supposed to apply to everyone
2236 equally?

2237 *Mr. Cavossa. You know, I will just say that we often
2238 tie our own hands behind our back in the United States when
2239 it comes to deliberations and positions with the ITU and the
2240 WRC, that we go through a very thorough process here in the
2241 United States of debating and coming to consensus. Other

2242 countries don't go through that same process, and there is
2243 very much a top-down approach to here is the industries or
2244 the technologies we are going to support.

2245 In the United States, you know, we have a much more
2246 thorough process that slows us down. As Ambassador Lang
2247 said, nothing is perfect, but it is the best we can come up
2248 with. But it just means the U.S. has to -- U.S. satellites,
2249 space companies have to fight quite a few battles at home
2250 before they can even start to fight those battles on the
2251 international stage and compete internationally.

2252 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Okay, and so what is the solution to
2253 that?

2254 *Mr. Cavossa. You know, I think that the -- this
2255 Administration in particular has been very vocal about
2256 supporting the space industry and U.S. space policy, broadly
2257 defined. And I would love, you know, for this delegation to
2258 take this Administration's positions and move very
2259 aggressively forward in support of the space and satellite
2260 industry.

2261 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Okay. Thank you all for your
2262 participation.

2263 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

2264 *Mr. Allen. The gentlelady yields. And Representative
2265 Barragan, you are recognized for five minutes for
2266 questioning.

2267 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you.

2268 The upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference will
2269 set up global rules for spectrum use and satellite services
2270 that directly shape how Americans connect and companies
2271 compete. This is especially true in my district, where K2
2272 Space builds satellites that support American defense
2273 missions and broadband networks. So we need to ensure that
2274 the U.S. is driving the conversation at WRC, and not reacting
2275 to it.

2276 But I have to say when I first got the information for
2277 this hearing I said, what is WRC, and what exactly do they
2278 do? So I want to start with you, Ambassador.

2279 Why should my constituents care about the WRC?

2280 *Mr. Lang. Well, thank you for the question, and I
2281 think we have cited some of the examples, but there are so
2282 many. It is important to companies that are trying to put
2283 out new products like wearable devices or self-driving cars.
2284 It is important to consumers who, as we mentioned, want to
2285 get off a plane in a foreign country and be able to connect
2286 to the network right away. It is critical to our military
2287 and our national defense that their radars and communication
2288 systems be able to operate without interference.

2289 Our transportation safety, both maritime and aviation,
2290 depend on communications and navigation systems that use
2291 radio frequency spectrum. Weather satellites use spectrum,

2292 as well, so that we can have accurate weather forecasts. So
2293 there are so many.

2294 And then there is -- the commercial side of it is that
2295 if the United States can be successful in promoting our
2296 approach to spectrum allocation around the world, then our
2297 companies have an advantage.

2298 *Ms. Barragan. Great, thank you. My next question is
2299 for Mr. Cavossa.

2300 The Port of Los Angeles is in my district and it uses
2301 satellite services for everything -- from everything from
2302 vessel navigation and cargo release to environmental
2303 monitoring and port security. Could WRC satellite decisions
2304 also impact the port's operations?

2305 *Mr. Cavossa. I mean, the simple answer is yes. I
2306 mean, if those companies that are providing those services
2307 today don't get the outcome that we need out of this WRC,
2308 then those -- their health and -- of those businesses will be
2309 challenged, and therefore providing services to the port
2310 would be challenged. And it could turn into a foreign
2311 company that provides that in the future.

2312 *Ms. Barragan. And how did the decisions at the WRC
2313 impact the competitiveness of American satellite
2314 manufacturers and, in particular, you know, companies that
2315 are in my district like K2?

2316 *Mr. Cavossa. Now, K2 is a great example of a new

2317 player that is building, potentially, hundreds or thousands
2318 of satellites for, you know, U.S. customers, U.S. military,
2319 U.S. Government going forward.

2320 And again, I want to reiterate that the space in the
2321 satellite marketplace is very much a global marketplace. We
2322 want to be able to sell services and satellites to not just
2323 U.S. customers, but customers across the globe. And we need
2324 sort of a very stable regulatory environment that favors
2325 satellite communications and favors the use of satellite
2326 communications in order for this to be a success going
2327 forward.

2328 *Ms. Barragan. Great, thank you. Ambassador, the 2028
2329 Summer Olympics will take place in my district and throughout
2330 the Los Angeles area. How might WRC outcomes impact the
2331 Olympics and the experience of international visitors
2332 traveling to my district for the events?

2333 *Mr. Lang. Thank you. I think that is super exciting,
2334 and I -- it will be important in the -- facilitating the
2335 travel and people being able to connect, people being able to
2336 fly airplanes that can use their navigation and communication
2337 systems.

2338 And I understand that there will also be a -- likely be
2339 a 6G demonstration during the Olympics, and I think that will
2340 be a great opportunity to see what these new technologies can
2341 do and why we need spectrum for them.

2342 *Ms. Barragan. Great. And my last question for anybody
2343 who wants to chime in is, what can we do as law-makers to
2344 make sure that WRC is successful? Anything that we could
2345 really do?

2346 Yes.

2347 *Mr. Lang. Well, I think the most important thing is to
2348 make sure that our team is well resourced when it goes to
2349 Shanghai, and has a fully-funded diplomatic strategy in the
2350 months ahead of it, as well.

2351 *Ms. Barragan. Great. Yes.

2352 *Ms. Alexander. And I think it is -- you know, let's
2353 not lose sight of the fact that we have a treaty conference
2354 this year, as well. It is not just WRC next year. And the
2355 U.S. needs to succeed this year in November to succeed next
2356 year at WRC, and that means getting the positions we want,
2357 that means getting the election results that we want, and
2358 that means getting our candidates elected.

2359 And you all go out and you travel the world, you meet
2360 with foreign officials, they come and meet with you. So to
2361 the extent you can also advocate for the U.S. candidates, for
2362 Doreen for the ITU council, for Jennifer to the IRB, those
2363 are great things that you can do that can help the team.

2364 *Ms. Barragan. Great. Thank you all so much.

2365 I yield back.

2366 *Mr. Allen. The gentlelady yields and now I recognize

2367 Representative Peters for your five minutes of questioning.

2368 *Mr. Peters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to the
2369 witnesses for coming out to help us think through this
2370 important conference coming ahead. It is critical for us to
2371 understand the decisions that are made at the WRC will shape
2372 global wireless networks, satellite services, and emerging
2373 technologies for decades.

2374 I am proud to represent San Diego, which is widely
2375 recognized as one of the world's leading centers for wireless
2376 communications, telecommunications research and development.
2377 Our region is home to innovators like Qualcomm, and has
2378 played a central role in the development of 3G, 4G, LTE, 5G,
2379 and now 6G technologies.

2380 When the U.S. sends its delegation to the World Radio
2381 Conference, we know decisions made abroad will affect our
2382 American companies. These spectrum decisions determine the
2383 extent to which U.S. technology or technology promoted by our
2384 adversaries can scale globally. And we have heard that
2385 during the 2023 World Radio Conference the U.S. was under-
2386 prepared, with limited concrete policy positions for which to
2387 advocate, letting countries we previously relied on to warm
2388 up to the policy positions of our adversaries like China.

2389 Ambassador Lang, briefly, can you recap for us the
2390 importance of front-end preparations and negotiations with
2391 our allies?

2392 And what are the two or three steps you think we should
2393 be taking right now to make sure a year-and-a-half out from
2394 the conference we are ready to work with like-minded
2395 countries to protect ourselves?

2396 *Mr. Lang. Well, thank you for the question.

2397 Broadly speaking, I think we need to make sure that our
2398 process to develop our positions is working quickly and
2399 identifying those tough issues that need to be elevated
2400 quickly so that we can finalize our positions as early as
2401 possible.

2402 And then, on the other hand, we need a strong diplomatic
2403 campaign that is global, that engages broadly with both our
2404 traditional partners and allies, our military allies that
2405 want to make sure that we have interoperable systems,
2406 countries in our region that want to make sure that we don't
2407 have interference problems on our borders, countries that are
2408 eager to develop new technologies and want to -- and share
2409 our interests in an innovative ecosystem. So that diplomatic
2410 campaign is important and is taking place right now, but
2411 needs to continuously ramp up as we get closer to the
2412 conference.

2413 *Mr. Peters. Okay, I want to talk to Mr. John a little
2414 bit about the development of the content of our policy
2415 positions.

2416 Leadership at the WRC ensures global spectrum rules

2417 support economic competitiveness, national security, American
2418 innovation. We need to integrate feedback from experts on
2419 the ground to turn these policies into action. So Mr. John,
2420 how does the FCC's advisory committee integrate industry
2421 feedback into its policy recommendations?

2422 And what do you do when industry actors disagree among
2423 themselves? How do you resolve that in coming up with a
2424 national strategy for us?

2425 *Mr. John. Thank you for the question. I also have to
2426 say Qualcomm has been super involved in the various prep
2427 processes, and so we are thankful to them as well.

2428 And in terms of the FCC, we have a Federal advisory
2429 committee called the WAC, WRC Advisory Committee, and that is
2430 where members of that committee can actually develop the
2431 different positions for the United States and the specific
2432 regulatory changes that we want to see made. As you have
2433 alluded to, it is not a straightforward process. There are
2434 going to be contentious agenda items. And we have one
2435 currently that just -- we had three different views
2436 established, and that is how we start trying to dissect, hey,
2437 we have consensus on all these topics, but there is still one
2438 or two, three things that we need to actually address.

2439 And so those three views are then put forth from the WAC
2440 to the FCC, which then publishes it for public notice. And
2441 at that point --

2442 *Mr. Peters. Yes.

2443 *Mr. John. -- anybody in the public can actually
2444 comment and side with one of the views or think of a
2445 compilation of all the views.

2446 One interesting aspect is if the NTIA is able to advance
2447 its RCS process and get its own proposals over, they are
2448 typically submitted to the WAC process. And we would like to
2449 have the opportunity to actually review them in conjunction
2450 with all the commercial interests.

2451 And so, in the end, we put together all the views, we
2452 present them, they go for public notice and comment, and then
2453 it goes up to the higher levels at the State Department,
2454 NTIA, and FCC.

2455 *Mr. Peters. So you feel that there is a way to smooth
2456 it out.

2457 I would just say, you know, this highlights one of the
2458 challenges we have as a country where, you know, we don't
2459 have the government involved directly in this. We rely on,
2460 in many cases, private companies like Qualcomm to do our 5G,
2461 6G research. And we have a -- sort of this -- a lot of
2462 people giving views in a public way. I just hope you are
2463 conscious that, to the extent we can hone our -- I am sure
2464 you are conscious of it -- to the extent we can hone our
2465 position as acutely as possible ahead of time, the better off
2466 we will be.

2467 I thank you all for being here, and thanks for your good
2468 work, and I wish you the best.

2469 I yield back.

2470 *Mr. Allen. The gentleman yields, and I now recognize
2471 Representative Carter for your five minutes of questioning.

2472 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
2473 thank you for our witnesses today.

2474 As the co-chair of the Wi-Fi Caucus, it is a priority
2475 for me that the United States remains at the forefront of the
2476 Wi-Fi technology battle that every American relies on every
2477 single day, now more than ever. We know that Wi-Fi is not a
2478 luxury; it is a necessity.

2479 The upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference, or
2480 WRC-27, will have significant implications for the future of
2481 the entire 6 gigahertz band for Wi-Fi and other unlicensed
2482 uses that drive technological innovation and boost our
2483 economy. We also know that China and other countries are
2484 actively working to build coalitions at the ITU to advance
2485 their priorities undermining this critical technology.

2486 The United States must have a strategy in place to
2487 defend Wi-Fi on the global stage and remain competitive.
2488 Doing so strengthens our position to lead internationally and
2489 to shape the future of telecommunications. We need to be
2490 ready.

2491 Mr. John, we are just 18 months away from the WRC. Is

2492 now the right time for the U.S. to set its priorities and
2493 develop a plan for how we achieve them?

2494 *Mr. John. Is it -- the best time was actually
2495 yesterday. And it is important because we have been very
2496 focused on China here, but actually one of the regions that
2497 gets ahead of everybody is Europe.

2498 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Are we behind the nefarious
2499 actors?

2500 *Mr. John. Right now I think we are about equal. No
2501 one has really come out with proposals for each of the agenda
2502 items, but you will see in the next --

2503 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Equal is not good. We need
2504 to be ahead, right?

2505 *Mr. John. Agreed.

2506 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Message received.

2507 Mr. Lang, can you please discuss what steps NTIA and FCC
2508 and the State Department must start taking now that we can
2509 have a unified approach to advance United States' position at
2510 WRC-27, including protecting the 6 gigahertz band?

2511 *Mr. Lang. Thank you for the question.

2512 I think the critical step that needs to take place as
2513 soon as possible is to identify where those thorny,
2514 challenging issues are that don't have a clear path forward,
2515 elevate them in our internal intergovernmental -- interagency
2516 process to make sure that we can reach -- reconcile

2517 differences and reach final positions in a timely way that
2518 enables us to engage early with our partners and build a
2519 consensus around our priorities.

2520 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Optimal word. Timely way.

2521 *Mr. Lang. I am sorry?

2522 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Optimal word you used, "in a
2523 timely way.''

2524 *Mr. Lang. Yes.

2525 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Are we in Congress,
2526 Republicans and Democrats alike, this committee and beyond,
2527 are we acting timely enough? Are there things that you would
2528 direct and ask us to do, now that you have a listening ear of
2529 -- knowing and understanding the importance of this, give us
2530 direction. That is what we are here for, not just to talk to
2531 or at you but to listen to you.

2532 *Mr. Lang. I think the important thing for Congress
2533 right now is to continue to pay attention to these issues and
2534 make sure that the Administration is aware of your interest
2535 and support for U.S. success at this conference to make sure
2536 that our team is fully resourced.

2537 And I think Fiona, Ms. Alexander, had a great point as
2538 well for you to help us with engagement, especially for
2539 elections coming up at the end of this year.

2540 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Are you concerned about
2541 elections and the integrity of them?

2542 *Mr. Lang. I think we need to make sure that we
2543 continue to engage. We can't rest. But I think we have
2544 strong candidates.

2545 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Got it. Ms. Alexander, what
2546 should the United States be doing immediately to ensure that
2547 international spectrum policies continue to advance U.S.
2548 interests?

2549 *Ms. Alexander. Well, thank you very much for the
2550 question. And as some of the things we have covered before,
2551 we need to decide what we want, and we need to make those
2552 choices, and we need to make them quickly.

2553 We need to actually identify who is going to be leading
2554 our delegations. There is a lot of good career staff across
2555 the interagency that have been working hard on this, but it
2556 is important that those teams and -- those teams build their
2557 relationships and they understand who their leader in the
2558 process is. And I think if we can identify our leadership
2559 and if we can identify what our positions are, then we
2560 naturally go to build our coalitions, and that gets us out in
2561 front.

2562 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. So how does this benefit the
2563 American consumer and our economy?

2564 *Ms. Alexander. Choices made at the ITU impact
2565 everything you do related to communications. And you want
2566 those choices to reflect democratic values and American

2567 innovation. You don't want them to reflect the choices and
2568 values of adversaries to the United States.

2569 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Are we missing anything?

2570 *Ms. Alexander. I mean, we could always be doing more,
2571 and I think it would behoove everybody to do more, and it
2572 would be great for folks to actually just work back. You
2573 know, we know when the meeting is happening. We know when
2574 positions should be submitted. We know when it makes sense
2575 to put deadlines in place. We should develop that schedule
2576 and we should hold people accountable to that schedule.

2577 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. My time has expired, Mr.
2578 Chairman, I yield. Thank you.

2579 *Mr. Allen. The gentleman yields, and now I recognize
2580 Representative McClellan for your five minutes of
2581 questioning.

2582 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking
2583 Member Matsui, for holding this hearing.

2584 The beauty of being one of the last members in seniority
2585 is your questions get all asked. I do have one. But before
2586 I get there, I just want to say that, as the United States
2587 enters the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2027, we
2588 must enter it with a unified voice, a clear, forward-looking
2589 policy agenda that modernizes global spectrum frameworks;
2590 ensures safe, interoperable, and resilient communications
2591 networks; and continues to drive innovation and economic

2592 growth both here and around the world.

2593 And we have to acknowledge that the United States is not
2594 starting from a position of strength, unfortunately. As many
2595 of my colleagues and our witnesses have noted today -- and it
2596 is not lost on me that the next conference will be held in
2597 Shanghai -- this context matters. Our strategic competitors
2598 are not only investing heavily in next-generation
2599 communications technology, but are also actively shaping
2600 international standards and governance models in a way that
2601 may not reflect our values of openness, transparency, and the
2602 free flow of information, as Ms. Alexander alluded to.

2603 Mr. John, given the enormous economic value that
2604 unlicensed 6 gigahertz spectrum generates for the United
2605 States, how should policy-makers think about the growing
2606 global competition between the U.S. model of unlicensed Wi-Fi
2607 and 6 gigahertz and China's model of licensed-only cellular
2608 use?

2609 *Mr. John. Thank you for the question. And one helpful
2610 thing this cycle is there is no 6 gigahertz agenda item, so
2611 we are able to continue protecting what we had established
2612 the past four years.

2613 But you do highlight a very valid point. You see this
2614 dichotomy of countries that continue to do mobile IMT and 6
2615 gigahertz, and then the others that are doing Wi-Fi. And I
2616 think the key difference nowadays is when we were advocating

2617 for WRC-23, we said yes, 6 gigahertz unlicensed, but we
2618 didn't have alternative spectrum to point toward. I think
2619 the narrative has changed quite a bit in this Administration.
2620 Thanks to you all, the Spectrum Auction Authority being
2621 restored and renewed focus on additional bands that could be
2622 available, right, for IMT.

2623 And so, as we go forward, we now have multiple options
2624 at our behest. So it is possible that 6 gigahertz does get
2625 greater traction across the world, and we can move and have
2626 IMT and non-6-gigahertz bands.

2627 *Ms. McClellan. And what is at stake for the American
2628 technology leadership if more countries follow China's
2629 approach?

2630 *Mr. John. I think we have highlighted global scale,
2631 device costs, market access. These are all at stake.

2632 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you. And for any of the
2633 witnesses in my last couple of minutes, is there anything we
2634 have not asked you that you think we should have asked you as
2635 we prepare for the conference?

2636 Yes, Ms. Alexander.

2637 *Ms. Alexander. So we spent a lot of time talking about
2638 WRC because of the importance of spectrum in space. And we
2639 have talked about the plenipotentiary conference and the
2640 importance of elections and U.S. leadership.

2641 But there are other decisions that are going to be made

2642 at the plenipotentiary that have the potential to impact
2643 America and Americans, and one of those is whether or not to
2644 convene the third treaty conference of the ITU that we have
2645 not discussed, which is the World Conference on International
2646 Telecommunications, and that updates the international
2647 telecom regulations. That doesn't happen on a routine basis.
2648 It has to be a decision of the plenipot to convene that
2649 treaty conference. That conference has not been the most
2650 pleasant for us. In 2012 we actually walked out of that
2651 conference with 50 allies, and did not sign that treaty
2652 because there were provisions that would have regulated the
2653 internet in ways that we don't like, and we can expect the
2654 plenipotentiary to have that conversation again.

2655 And in addition to bad proposals on internet or cyber,
2656 we have to be concerned that there might be a treaty
2657 conference to regulate AI. So again, this is why I keep
2658 saying plenipot is important, not just the WRC. So it is
2659 important that we look at this cycle of meetings.

2660 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you for that.

2661 And I yield back.

2662 *Mr. Allen. The gentlelady yields. Now I recognize
2663 Representative Joyce for your five minutes of questioning.

2664 *Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member
2665 Matsui, for allowing me to join this important hearing.

2666 Securing U.S. leadership of communications technology is

2667 critical as we continue to engage in what you have all
2668 outlined this afternoon as a significant competition with
2669 China and global leaders. China has invested significant
2670 resources in the development of advanced technology
2671 throughout the communication field, specifically to the point
2672 of our conversation in AI innovation.

2673 The United States cannot and must not lose the AI race.
2674 We must reduce barriers to innovation and invest in the
2675 development of these technologies that are leading to
2676 important advancements in manufacturing, advancements in
2677 health care, and in economic growth right here on American
2678 soil.

2679 Pennsylvania stands at the forefront of the AI
2680 revolution in the United States, with the historic \$92
2681 billion investment announced by President Trump in the
2682 Commonwealth last year. Pennsylvania is set to attract more
2683 jobs, more domestic companies, and more energy production.
2684 Investments like this are critical and -- as we work to
2685 innovate our technology beyond the capabilities of China.

2686 As the U.S. approaches the ITU conference in Qatar and
2687 the World Radiocommunication Conference in China, we must
2688 have a unified vision that places innovation at the
2689 forefront. We must have the ability to be prepared. That
2690 leadership that you talked about has to be in place long in
2691 advance before these meetings.

2692 In the midst of the technological revolution, I
2693 appreciate the focus coming out of the White House and
2694 President Trump's executive orders ensuring U.S. leadership
2695 on AI and the ongoing work within the U.S. Government to
2696 ensure that America remains the global tech leader. Mr.
2697 John, can you describe the stakes of the U.S. not being
2698 successful?

2699 Is this a doomsday scenario if we don't step up right
2700 now and have the capabilities to develop the team to be in
2701 place at these conferences?

2702 *Mr. John. Yes. If you are -- using your example for
2703 AI, for example, that is something that is going to be
2704 heavily dependent on having access to a lot of bandwidth.
2705 And so if we are not able to secure that bandwidth and make
2706 sure that bandwidth is globally harmonized, it is going to be
2707 these companies, some in your state, that are going to be the
2708 ones suffering because they will have to design different
2709 chip sets, they will have to design different base stations,
2710 they will have to design -- they will have to go through
2711 different equipment bodies to get certifications. This all
2712 increases costs. It delays deployment timelines. And in the
2713 end, the American consumer is the one that is going to be
2714 suffering.

2715 *Mr. Joyce. So, Mr. John, how can the U.S. use these
2716 upcoming conversations to cement our status in the AI race

2717 against China?

2718 Is this that opportunity right now? Is that what we are
2719 looking down the scope at?

2720 *Mr. John. So with respect to AI, it is not currently,
2721 at least to my knowledge, within the mandate of the ITU. And
2722 I am sure it might come up at plenipotentiary, and so
2723 something the United States will have to gather its thoughts
2724 and have a position on.

2725 But I can tell you the underlying -- the bloodline to
2726 what is going to help a lot of these AI applications and
2727 features is spectrum. And so there will be direct
2728 implications, and we need to be ahead of the game.

2729 *Mr. Joyce. Ms. Alexander, you talked about forming a
2730 cohesive group, developing that leadership right now. How
2731 important is that for these conferences to be successful for
2732 the United States?

2733 *Ms. Alexander. Thank you for the question, and I think
2734 it is critical because the other thing that is important to
2735 keep in mind is that these ITU meetings are constant. You
2736 are always seeing the same people over and over, and you have
2737 to develop your relationships with them and your personal
2738 working relationships with them.

2739 And while we have a lot of career staff across the
2740 agencies, everyone wants to see your ambassador and your head
2741 of delegation. So getting that person in place, getting that

2742 person on a plane, getting that person in front of people to
2743 meet them and develop those relationships and that rapport is
2744 fundamental to us winning.

2745 *Mr. Joyce. I thank all of you for your participation
2746 in this discussion here today.

2747 And as the United States approaches important
2748 international engagements at the ITU conference and the World
2749 Radiocommunication Conference, I think it is important that
2750 we place our focus on encouraging innovation to secure and
2751 maintain our leadership among global communities in
2752 technology. We must utilize this, and this is an opportunity
2753 to continue to advance our development of AI technology so,
2754 once again, that the United States can maintain that
2755 leadership position and dominance in the age of AI.

2756 Thank you all for your participation.

2757 Mr. Chairman, I thank you for allowing me to participate
2758 here, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

2759 *Mr. Allen. All right. The gentleman yields.

2760 And now I ask unanimous consent to insert in the record
2761 the documents included on the staff hearing documents list.

2762 Without objection, so ordered.

2763 [The information follows:]

2764

2765 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2766

2767 *Mr. Allen. Seeing there are no more -- no further
2768 members wishing to be recognized, I would like to thank our
2769 witnesses for being here today and your expertise in sharing
2770 with us on this important matter.

2771 I remind members that they have 10 business days to
2772 submit questions for the record, and I ask the witnesses to
2773 respond to those questions promptly. Members should submit
2774 their questions by the close of business on April 1, April
2775 Fool's Day, 2026. So maybe you will get some April Fool's
2776 questions.

2777 And with that, without objection, this subcommittee is
2778 adjourned.

2779 [Whereupon, at 4:21 p.m., the subcommittee was
2780 adjourned.]