

Opening Statement of Chairman Brett Guthrie
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Legislative Hearing on Protecting Communications Networks and Improving
Connectivity”
Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 1:30 PM

Good afternoon, and thank you, Chairman Hudson, for holding a legislative hearing on these important topics.

Securing our communications systems from bad actors has been a longstanding, and bipartisan, priority of this Committee.

Ranking Member Pallone, then-Chairman Walden, Representative Matsui and I led this Committee’s effort to “rip and replace” untrusted vendor equipment from our mobile networks by passing the Secure and Trusted Communications Network Act in 2019.

Since then, this Committee has worked to ban Chinese-manufactured drones by passing the Countering CCP Drones Act. Just last year we also passed Representative Latta’s ROUTERS Act to examine the threat of routers made in or by countries of concern, including China.

That said, we remain vigilant to threats posed by adversaries like China and are committed to protecting our critical infrastructure and safeguarding Americans’ data.

Recent reports of a China-linked plot to cripple New York's communications networks serve as a stark reminder that these threats are real and ongoing and shows the lengths to which our adversaries will go to undermine our interests and threaten our homeland. Given those risks, any legislation effort to amend the covered list administered by the FCC warrants careful consideration by the Committee.

That's why today we will be considering the GUARD Act, legislation that would add humanoid and quadruped robots linked with certain CCP-linked robotics companies to the covered list. I appreciate the work of the sponsors of the bill and the opportunity to examine this threat today to better understand why Americans should be concerned about humanoid and quadruped robots from adversaries.

We will also spend time learning more about other attack vectors from adversaries such as malicious, illegal robocalls that are fraudulently attacking Americans, and finally, legislation to ensure that federal broadband dollars are going to areas most in need.

Thank you to our witnesses for joining us today and all the bill sponsors, and I yield back.