

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade  
Hearing on “The Disrupter Series: 3D Printing”  
February 26, 2016**

U.S. manufacturing is recovering slowly from the recent downturn. Automakers in Michigan have weathered the storm and are making a comeback, but the next manufacturing revolution is yet to come.

As Washington overregulation and uncertainty puts downward pressure on American manufacturing, disruptive technologies are quietly pushing the tide in the other direction.

With the Disrupter Series, we seek to highlight what the private sector is doing despite the red tape—and additive manufacturing is an excellent example of this.

Increasingly, the modern factory is becoming digitized. More than ever, part designs, assembly processes and the supply chain as a whole are woven with digital threads that enable companies to closely manage and improve their work.

Building things is the American way, but software is the wave of the future. When it comes to manufacturing, thanks in part to the development of 3D printing, we can say the U.S. has an app for that.

Advancements like 3D printing must be allowed to flourish and must be supported in order to bring American builders from innovative entrepreneurship to world leadership.

While I am pleased to hear about the exciting developments in 3D printing in manufacturing, I am also excited about the potentially life-saving benefits 3D printing has brought to the healthcare sector.

Many of you know of this Committee’s 21st Century Cures initiative, and 3D printing makes important contributions to the development of vital cures efforts. Although in its experimental stages, bioprinting promises potentially revolutionary advancements and is already being used by scientists to produce human organ tissue, which greatly improves the quality of pharmaceutical testing.

From rapid and accurate prototype models to surgical guides to finished parts and products, we are just beginning to see the impact 3D printing will have.

I look forward to this exciting discussion and thank the witnesses for their participation.