Opening Statement of the Honorable Robert E. Latta
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hearing on "Disrupter Series: Update on IOT Opportunities and Challenges"
June 13, 2017

(As prepared for delivery)

Good morning and welcome to the Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection subcommittee hearing. Today we continue the Disrupter Series with our focus on the Internet of Things. We just came from the Rayburn Foyer where our panelists and 17 other companies and universities showcased the important work they're doing in this space. Members and staff saw first-hand the innovative ways companies and universities are using the Internet of Things to better meet consumer demands. I want to thank you all as well as everyone who participated in the showcase.

The Internet of Things, or IoT, loosely refers to a network of connected devices, services and objects that collect and exchange information. And new devices are being connected all the time. Today, for example, CSPAN is tapping into the Internet of Things by testing their new and innovative 360-degree HD camera right here in this very room. While this footage will not be publicly available, this is just one more illustration of how connectivity in this day in age is used to collect, share, and exchange data in real time.

These connected devices offer businesses and consumers significant benefits. For businesses, IoT is improving efficiency and increasing productivity all while helping drive down

overhead costs. For consumers, IoT provides quick responsive services, enhanced experiences and convenience. We are seeing IoT revolutionize a variety of industries and optimize everything from manufacturing and home appliances to automobiles and healthcare.

Specifically, in the healthcare industry, IoT is being used both to enhance preventative measures as well as streamline treatment for other health issues. Joining us on the panel today from my home state of Ohio is Dr. Marras. Dr. Marras is the Executive Director and Scientific Director of the Spine Research Institute at The Ohio State University and plays an important role in the IoT and healthcare space. Dr. Marras and his team are using IoT in a variety of ways to help diagnose spine disorders, improve effectiveness of back treatments and identify occupational tasks that cause back injuries so that businesses adjust those tasks to reduce on-the-job injuries.

I look forward to hearing more about the work our panelists are doing in the IoT space and how IoT has improved the important work you all are doing. I also look forward to exploring how we, as policymakers, can continue to promote IoT and address any regulatory obstacles or barriers you all foresee that may stifle innovation or otherwise hinder the industry. Thank you all for joining us today.