

**Opening Statement of Chairman Greg Walden**  
**Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection**  
**“Internet of Things Legislation**  
**May 22, 2018**

Good morning, and thank you to our witnesses for appearing before the Subcommittee. Today we will hear testimony about a draft bill, the SMART IoT Act, to support the development of the Internet of Things here in the United States. This bipartisan effort underscores one of the key goals of the Energy and Commerce Committee: helping American entrepreneurs and established businesses expand to create jobs for American workers and help improve the lives of consumers.

I would like to thank Chairman Latta and Representative Welch for working on this issue and finding a bipartisan path forward. This is what we do at the Energy and Commerce Committee and particularly on this subcommittee when faced with new technology policy questions.

The Internet of Things, or IoT, holds the promise to connect workers, suppliers and products through more efficient networks that can save time, money and resources.

Building this network will not be easy. It requires engineers, entrepreneurs and visionaries. It also requires public policies that foresee a world designed for the next-century policies that are forward looking, and that reflect a world to come of self-driving cars, self-organizing materials, and innovations we have yet to even think of. These must replace many of our still-existing rules and policies that reflect the old technologies of the last century. While America has changed, many of our regulations have not.

That is one of the purposes of the legislation we will discuss today. It is meant to set the stage by making sure stakeholders are aware of the playing field and are not creating conflicting or duplicative obligations or requirements. The SMART IoT Act will create the first compendium of essentially who is doing what in the IoT space. This includes the efforts undertaken by private industry as well as a review of what agencies are doing.

Removing regulatory barriers to innovation is one of the most important duties of this Committee. Doing so allows our economy to grow, our workers to

flourish and our citizens to benefit. The best way to start is to know what is out there already or being developed today.

Since January 2017 over three million new jobs have been created in America. The U.S. unemployment rate is 3.9 percent, the lowest seen in this country since the year 2000. What's more, this comes as more Americans rejoin the workforce, millions once again finding work after years of hardship.

Creating jobs and opportunity is a goal shared by all of us on this Committee, a fact reflected in the bi-partisan work on the SMART IoT Act. Chairman Latta and Representative Welch have been working on these issues for several years now, and I'm glad to see the progress they have made.

We have made great progress over the last two years in restoring jobs for American workers, restarting American manufacturing, and creating opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds. But there is more work yet to be done. Legislation such as the draft bill we consider today is one way that we will continue to fulfill our duty to the American people to remove barriers to success while promoting policies that help our workforce.

American ingenuity and leadership is once again transforming the world. That is something we can all be proud of. Thank you Chairman Latta for the leadership you have shown, and thanks as well to all the Members of this Subcommittee.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I yield back the balance of my time.