

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce Chair Janice D. Schakowsky
Hearing on “Investing in American Jobs: Legislation to Strengthen Manufacturing and Competitiveness”
October 14, 2021

Over a year and a half into the COVID-19 pandemic, shortages of critical products and consumer goods continue to plague domestic manufacturers and American families.

Consumers across the country are finding empty store shelves and reduced selection.

Those looking to buy larger, durable goods such as furniture or cars face even bigger challenges and wait times.

A severe shortage of semiconductors is harming vehicle manufacturing and causing used car prices to jump 27% since last year.¹

These marketplace disruptions harm consumers, especially the most vulnerable.

It is clear that we have significant supply chain vulnerabilities.

The public health crisis has created manufacturing disruptions, changed demand patterns, caused surges, and underscored America’s insufficient domestic production capacity.

That is why we are here today to discuss legislation that will improve our supply chain resilience, combat the growing threat posed by foreign countries predatory policies, and protect consumers.

We’re considering critical legislation to make the online marketplaces like Amazon safer and fairer for consumers. Online sales increased significantly during the pandemic as consumers sought to safely purchase the everyday goods they need.

However, American consumers face new dangers when purchasing goods online.

Counterfeit goods are readily available on popular consumer websites.

Not only do these products defraud consumers, they also pose a risk to health, safety, and security.

We cannot allow dangerous or stolen products sold online marketplaces like Amazon to line criminals’ pockets.

¹ www.nytimes.com/2021/10/07/business/used-car-prices.html

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Consumers deserve to shop with confidence and get what they pay for.

The INFORM Consumers Act, which I introduced with my colleague Ranking Member Bilirakis, will require online marketplaces like Amazon to verify the identity of high-volume sellers.

It will protect consumers and legitimate businesses, increase trust in the marketplace, and discourage criminals and fraudsters.

The other legislative proposals from my colleagues that will be discussed today improve America's global competitiveness, increase supply chain resilience, promote domestic manufacturing, and strengthen supply chains of critical goods and services.

I look forward to the testimony of the witnesses as we explore how to improve and strengthen our supply chains, protect consumers, and ensure an economy that works for all Americans.

I now yield the remainder of my time to Representative Kelly.