

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky

Markup of Five Bills

February 7, 2023

This Subcommittee has a proud history of working collaboratively across the aisle. From our hearing just last week, back to when Chair Rogers and I led the Subcommittee, and further, our history of bipartisanship is one of our greatest strengths.

Last Congress, Chair Bilirakis and I worked closely together to pass more than ten bills that became law. I sincerely hope we can continue in this vein.

Unfortunately, this hearing is not consistent with our usual process. Two of the bills we are considering today have never had a legislative hearing. As a result, stakeholders have not had the opportunity to weigh in and Subcommittee Members have not had the opportunity to have their questions answered.

That said, the issues these bills seek to address are important ones. It is important that our economic policies support American values and American competitiveness. Equally important is protecting U.S. consumers from underhanded collection of personal data on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party.

Last November, Chair Bilirakis and I wrote to Apple and Google about Tik Tok's surveillance of American users. We were concerned about Tik Tok's close ties to the Chinese Communist Party and the threat their surveillance poses to American citizens. Google responded to our letter, but Apple has not yet done so.

Congress must do more to protect our constituents' personal information from the Chinese Communist Party as well as protect American businesses and the supply chains that support them. Supporting American competitiveness is going to require more decisive, bold action.

Unfortunately, the five bills we are discussing today need proper vetting. We need stakeholders to weigh in to identify unintended consequences and how we can address them.

I will offer an amendment to one of the bills based on stakeholder feedback we received last year. But, for the other four bills, I would ask for a commitment from you, Mr. Chairman to work with us to get stakeholder feedback and amend the bills as appropriate.

I look forward to working closely with Chair Bilirakis and my colleagues across the aisle to afford these bills the necessary process and to make them ready for prime time.