

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

***Innovation, Data, and Commerce Subcommittee Hearing on “Mapping America’s Supply Chains:
Solutions to Unleash Innovation, Boost Economic Resilience, and Beat China”***

September 20, 2023

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed serious weaknesses in our nation’s supply chains. Consumers faced shortages of critical products from toilet paper to cars. In 2021, 60 percent of small businesses said supply chain issues were one of their top concerns.

In the past, this Committee has worked across the aisle to strengthen America’s supply chains. Unfortunately, two of the bills we are discussing today leave workers on the sidelines. One leaves labor out of the list of stakeholders the Department of Commerce must consult on supply chains. The other ignores the issues gig workers face including low wages, long hours, and hazardous working conditions. From meatpacking to railroads to auto plants, workers are a key part of our supply chains.

My colleagues Reps. Blunt Rochester, Kelly, Dingell, and Wild have put years of work into strengthening our supply chains. I’m disappointed their bills are not being considered today. Their proposals strengthen our supply chains while making sure that labor has a seat at the table. We cannot bring our supply chains back to the U.S. or be competitive with China without American workers.

This committee has previously worked across the aisle on solutions addressing the needs of all stakeholders. I hope we can do so again.

I now yield the remainder of my time to Representative Blunt Rochester.