Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement

Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Hearing

"Computing Power and Competition: Examining the Semiconductor Ecosystem"

April 15, 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this important hearing and thank you to our expert witnesses for being here.

Semiconductors are foundational to modern technology and to our economy. From smartphones to cars and household appliances, to advanced AI systems, these chips are embedded in nearly every aspect of our daily lives.

But their importance goes far beyond their many end uses. The semiconductor industry is a major driver of economic growth, supporting millions of jobs and generating tens of billions of dollars in export revenue. Semiconductors are also central to the AI infrastructure boom, which is already delivering tangible benefits to Americans, through economic growth, tax revenue reinvestment into their communities, and innovations that improve the quality of life.

However, these benefits are not a guarantee. U.S. semiconductor manufacturing capacity has declined from its historical highs. While we remain leaders in design and advanced equipment, that leading edge is under pressure from strategic competitors and adversaries. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, we saw how semiconductor shortages exposed the vulnerabilities in our supply chains, costing families and the economy hundreds of billions of dollars.

In response, the Trump Administration has taken meaningful steps to strengthen American competitiveness across the semiconductor ecosystem—helping to secure half a trillion dollars in private investments to boost our domestic semiconductor capabilities, drive significant economic growth, and support our national security.

However, we're at a critical inflection point. Our global leadership is being challenged, our supply chains remain vulnerable, and the stakes for our economy and national security could not be higher. At a time when demand for semiconductors is at an all-time high, we must examine the state of the

semiconductor industry and what more must be done to ensure continued American leadership.

I look forward to hearing from our panel and the conversation ahead. I yield back.