

**Ranking Member Meadows**

**Opening Statement**

**“Making IT a Priority for The Federal Government”**

**March 4, 2020**

- I would like to thank the Chairman for holding this important hearing and all our witnesses for being here.
- The President has proposed spending \$92 billion dollars on information technology in 2021.
- With this amount of money, oversight of the General Services Administration’s (GSA) technology assistance and procurement programs is vital to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.
- For instance, the Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions (EIS) contract represents a \$50 billion-dollar contract to modernize agency networks and communications systems.
- The EIS contract needs to be successful for agencies to continue transitioning from old, and often unsecured, legacy IT systems, to modern, secure, and cost-effective cloud solutions.
- Cybersecurity must be a top priority for GSA and all federal agencies. Cyber-attacks are growing more sophisticated and more damaging than ever before.
- Additionally, I am glad we will be discussing the e-commerce pilot program today.

- With federal employees spending \$6 billion dollars on small purchases a year, it's important that we have a simple, efficient and secure way for our government employees to make these purchases.
- In addition to federal acquisition, GSA has played an increasingly important role in providing technology services through the Technology Transformation Service (TTS) with organizations like 18F and the Centers of Excellence (COE).
- Programs like these are crucial in ensuring that agencies are keeping up with the technology being utilized in the private sector.
- I know that these programs have already engaged with several agencies on projects that have had some great success and I hope this will continue in the coming years.
- We've done a good amount of work over the years with federal IT, including a hearing in December of last year on the implementation of the 2019 Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA).
- That hearing represented a productive and candid discussion about how we are evaluating agency progress and outcomes.
- I'm happy to discuss these programs today and to see how we can work to make them more efficient and productive for the American taxpayer.
- I believe that through bipartisan oversight, this Committee has seen a good deal of improvement at federal agencies over the years and it's important that we continue that.