

**Opening Statement of Chairman Fred Upton
Full Committee Vote on H.R. 5510, H.R. 5111, H.R. 5092, H.R. 5104, H.R. 1301
June 22, 2016**

This markup continues our ongoing work to develop and advance thoughtful solutions that truly make a difference and ensure our policies reflect the realities of the 21st century. The bills before us today are targeted policies that seek to boost amateur radio and modernize the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

In late April, members of the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee unveiled a number of innovation-friendly bills to modernize the FTC for the 21st century. These bills stemmed from our disrupter series, an ongoing series looking at the new technologies that will drive future job growth and innovation.

Throughout the process, we heard from businesses big and small who supported our process reform measures as commonsense and moderate steps to enhance the commission's transparency and guide its enforcement approach.

With a vigilant eye on consumer protection, we have balanced our FTC updates with the need for consumer protection. We have focused on transparency and balance. This oversight is especially important because FTC discretion has not seen the judicial review envisioned by Congress in establishing the agency's consumer protection authority. Eight targeted bills by subcommittee members were consolidated into the FTC Process and Transparency Act before us today.

We will also take up some additional consumer measures. The Consumer Review Fairness Act, a major priority for our Internet economy, enjoys bipartisan cosponsorship. When someone is getting ready to travel to southwest Michigan, they need to have confidence that the reviews they are reading are true. And I want them to know what a wonderful place it is not because someone has tinkered with the reviews, but because it really is, especially this time of year. We worked diligently with our minority colleagues to make perfecting changes to the bill as passed by the Senate to ensure that it operates as intended for all stakeholders.

The Reinforcing American Made Products Act is another important measure. There seems to be wide agreement that a single standard makes sense – I hope we can reach agreements on the details of how to get there. And protecting consumer's rights to buy tickets to their favorite events, as the BOTS Act does is a no brainer. Families across America will attend events this summer. They shouldn't have to pay extra because they can only get tickets from scalpers.

These bills are a win for consumers, jobs, and innovation. They empower the FTC to pursue consumer gag clauses and online ticket scalpers on behalf of consumers. And our process reform bills and Made in USA legislation clarify the legal landscape for businesses to create jobs. Without workers there are no consumers—and without consumers, there can be no workers. This is why a balanced approach is crucial and light-touch regulation is so important in fast-moving fields.

We will also move forward with legislation to protect the rights of amateur radio operators. Just as the law recognizes that access to broadcast satellite communications are an important part of our national information infrastructure, so too should we recognize the role of amateur radio. This is especially important as amateur radio operators can serve a crucial role in providing communications in the wake of natural disasters and other times when commercial

communications networks might be unavailable. The underlying bill seeks to ensure that amateur radio operators are permitted to operate in deed-restricted communities. The amendment in the nature of a substitute under consideration represents a good faith compromise between the two parties most impacted by this bill: amateurs and community associations.

With this markup, we look to build upon our efforts to modernize government for the innovation era and protect consumers, investment, and jobs. I look forward to advancing these measures out of committee tomorrow.

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