

**Opening Statement of Republican Leader Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Committee on Energy and Commerce
“Markup of 38 Energy, Health, Consumer Protection, and
Telecommunications Bills”
September 9, 2020**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm pleased we are considering the American COMPETE Act today, which combines nine bills from the emerging technology bill package introduced by our subcommittee Members back in May.

This will help ensure America leads the world in technological innovations, well into the 21st Century.

I appreciate the leadership of all the Members and staff who have worked on this bill package.

Thank you especially to Mr. Rush, Ms. Kelly, and Mr. Soto for making it bipartisan.

These are not Republican or Democrat solutions. They are American.

It's imperative that we continue to work together for America's global competitive edge in emerging technologies that will raise our standard of living, empower individuals, and create American jobs.

We cannot afford to let the Chinese Communist Party beat us in the development and deployment of technologies like Artificial Intelligence.

Already, we are seeing them use these transformative technologies for evil.

The CCP is using technology to control and oppress their own people... and grow their global influence too by exporting it to other authoritarian regimes around the world.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make sure these technologies are developed with American values of human rights, liberty, and free expression.

Together, we can chart the path toward a new era of American innovation...

And encourage the world to follow **our** leadership—not China's.

I'd like to ask unanimous consent to enter a letter of support for the American COMPETE Act from the U.S. Chamber of Congress.

I am also pleased we are considering the *Combatting Pandemic Scams Act* from Mr. Carter and Mr. Hudson...

Which will help ensure scammers are stopped from hurting Americans during this crisis. I thank them for their ongoing leadership.

I urge support for these bills, but before I yield back the balance of my time, I'd like to highlight two bills that are not part of this markup.

The TELL Act and Internet App ID Act, led by Mr. Duncan and Mr. Kinzinger, were included in our emerging tech package released back in May and aim to increase transparency for American data sent to China and for apps developed by China.

However, these bills were excluded from this markup due to industry concerns with these transparency disclosures.

The hesitance for more transparency is troubling and raises serious questions about American companies' data practices and their connection to China.

If an American company sends American information to China – where we know the CCP has unfettered access – the American people should know.

If apps that collect information about Americans are owned by the CCP or other state-owned entities in China, the American people should know.

Given the significant push back we received, it is clear there is more to this story and one I intend to explore further.

Chair Schakowsky, I hope you will join me in continuing to pursue this important issue for greater transparency for the American people.

Thank you – I yield back.