

Opening Statement – Full Committee Markup of 12 Bills – November 17, 2021
As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you Mr. Chairman for holding this markup today. Later on we'll consider two bills from the Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee, the INFORM Consumers Act that I co-lead with our Subcommittee Chair Jan Schakowsky, as well as my Restoring Brand USA Act, which I am proud to lead with my friend and colleague Peter Welch from the beautiful state of Vermont.

The INFORM Consumers Act, H.R. 5502, creates a *uniform national standard* to protect consumers from bad actors by requiring certain third-party high-volume sellers, of new and unused consumer goods, to verify contact information, such as email, phone number, and business tax ID, within 10 days of being listed as a high-volume seller on an online marketplace.

I want to thank Chair Schakowsky for working with me in good faith to make this a strong bipartisan product that has broad consensus amongst stakeholders. This support demonstrates the positive impact this legislation will have both on our constituents who are protected from counterfeit or stolen products, and our small sellers whose *privacy is protected* while also being able to operate with clear guidelines and *one set of rules* for online marketplaces and sellers who do business in all fifty states.

I am confident our work here will protect consumers and make online shopping a safer and better experience for all.

We are also considering the Restoring Brand USA Act, H.R. 4594 that I introduced with my friend Peter Welch. This will make \$250 million from the Travel Promotion Fund for Brand USA available to help restore the travel and tourism industry after being crippled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This critical sector contributes billions of dollars to local economies and creates countless American jobs. Given its role in attracting international tourism to each of our unique districts, I am grateful we'll be continuing our bipartisan tradition of supporting the Brand USA program in this Committee today. I want to thank my friend and colleague for working tirelessly with me on this legislation, which I know will benefit his state of Vermont as well as my home state of Florida.

In addition to the bills on today's markup, I look forward to negotiating other bipartisan efforts we can get on with in our Subcommittee such as enacting a federal privacy standard;

empowering student athletes' *Name Image Likeness*; and addressing manufacturing supply chain issues.

Thank you and I yield back.