

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Hearing on “Improving Federal Spectrum Systems”  
October 7, 2015**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

There's no question that freeing up additional spectrum for commercial use is a vital step in ensuring America's continued leadership in technology and innovation. Congress, the administration, industry, and public interest groups are all in agreement that there is a need for a great deal more spectrum to meet demand for important services and technologies.

Our federal agencies are the biggest single user of spectrum, much of which is devoted to important work and operations. But surely there are ways to invest in our agencies and improve systems to ensure that they are using spectrum in the most efficient way and with the best equipment. Getting agencies to make these changes can be difficult. It requires federal users to take on additional work without compromising their core missions – a difficult sell. One way to encourage agencies to make this kind of investment of time and resources is to provide them with a financial incentive for relinquishing unused or unneeded spectrum. Reimbursement for the spectrum they give up can help to further their mission in other ways. The bill put forward by Representatives Guthrie and Matsui will be an important step in this process.

The committee is also considering a discussion draft of a bill to identify additional bands of spectrum that could be made available for consumer use. Spectrum has helped transform the daily lives of folks in Michigan and across the country - giving us the ability to stay connected with personal devices today that were once unimaginable just a decade ago. While we have done a great deal through hearings, whitepapers, and legislation to promote the availability of spectrum, there must be a consistent and predictable supply to fuel competition and innovation to pave the way for continued advancement. NTIA and the FCC have done a great deal of work to identify potential sources for spectrum to be reassigned. I am optimistic that we can do our part in crafting legislation to provide additional structure to this process and give these agencies the tools needed to succeed.

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