

Rep. Leonard Lance
Protecting Customer Proprietary Network Information in the Internet Age
Opening Statement

Thank you Chairman Blackburn and welcome to our distinguished panel.

Section 222 of the Communications Act was enacted during the Act's last major update in 1996. This section mandates that telecommunications carriers protect customer proprietary network information or CPNI. Since 1996, the internet has revolutionized communications. Through innovations from Voice over IP, to apps like Snapchat or WhatsApp, to social media networks like Facebook and Twitter, consumers now have a bevy of options to communicate over networks separate from traditional telephone and cellular calls. These advances have made it easier and cheaper for people to connect with each other around the world.

However, as breaches of consumer data continuously confront us, we must ensure the rules and regulations protecting consumer information are up to date and applied equally across the Internet ecosystem. The FCC has tried to keep up with the technological innovations over the past twenty years, but an outdated statute limits their efforts. It is crucial we protect consumer's sensitive information, no matter the means of communications, and without hampering innovation.

I look forward to discussing how we can effectively update the law to conform to the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.