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Statement for the Record

*House Energy and Commerce Committee
Communications and Technology Subcommittee*

Hearing: Oversight of the FCC

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I'd like to thank Chairman Blackburn, Ranking Member Doyle, and all of the FCC Commissioners for being here today. Over the course of this year, this subcommittee has examined several areas that play a large role in the FCC's work to empower broadband and 5G deployment, streamline regulatory approaches, and ultimately reach our shared goal of closing the digital divide.

I've been fortunate to have both Chairman Pai and Commissioner Carr visit my district. Chairman Pai and I visited a PSAP in Noblesville, Indiana, just outside of Indianapolis, last fall and discussed challenges and opportunities around NG911. I'm proud that Indiana is a leader in public safety communications. We already have text-to-911 statewide and our PSAPs are very engaged on NG911 efforts. Chairman Pai and I participated in a roundtable with 911 telecommunicators, public safety officials, first responders, and local elected officials where we discussed how Indiana can continue to enhance 911 systems and serve as a model for other states as we work to realize true Next Generation 911.

Additionally, Commissioner Carr visited this past May and we visited Beck's Hybrids in small rural town in northern Hamilton County called Atlanta, Indiana. Becks' is the largest family-owned retail seed company in the nation and are doing great work to deploy and pilot 5G in rural Indiana. 5G will start in more urban areas, but it has huge potential to help with rural broadband as well. We learned about how Beck's is collaborating with On-Ramp Indiana, a WISP based out of Noblesville, to bring 5G to rural areas and research exactly how 5G might work to help bridge the digital divide. Beck's built a precision ag management platform called Farm Server and worked with On-Ramp Indiana to build a wireless network from the ground up to power the Farm Server. It was a cool opportunity to see work like this being done! So again, thanks to both of you for coming to Indiana's Fifth District.

I'd also like to thank Commissioner O'Rielly and his staff for working with me and my staff on the introduction of H.R. 5700, the National Non-Emergency Mobile Number Act. A small, but important, provision that moves us one step closer to better interoperability between states with regard to public safety communications. I hope to see this commonsense, bipartisan bill pass into law.

From 5G to NG911 to rural broadband, at the heart of innovation is the need for sound telecommunications policy. I'd like to thank Chairman Pai and the Commission for the steps you have already taken to modernize the FCC, increase transparency and accountability at the agency, free up spectrum, and all that you do. I look forward to our continued work together.