

Statement for the Record of Rep. Anna G. Eshoo
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Accountability and Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission
2123 Rayburn House Office Building
May 15, 2019

Chairman Doyle, thank you for holding this critical hearing to ensure the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is meeting its responsibilities consistent with the public interest and the laws Congress has written.

Unfortunately, the FCC under the leadership of Chairman Ajit Pai continues to serve the interest of companies at the cost of consumers and local communities, ignore facts and data, limit public transparency, and resist Congressional oversight. Under this FCC, the number of robocalls has skyrocketed with no end in sight, wireless carriers have been caught selling customers' geolocation data on two occasions, and the National Verifier program is denying low-income Americans access to Lifeline. This is an outrage.

Last fall, the FCC preempted municipalities from having a say in deployment of small cell sites, the infrastructure needed for 5G. America needs to win the race to 5G, but this must be done equitably. Local officials need to have a say in infrastructure. This is why I introduced H.R. 530, the *Accelerating Wireless Broadband Development by Empowering Local Communities Act of 2019*, overturns FCC regulations limiting the ability of local governments to regulate the deployment of 5G infrastructure. Over 145 municipalities and 135 public power utilities endorsed this bill. This legislation wouldn't be needed if the FCC hadn't steamrolled local government.

I worry that even though the FCC has taken steps to ensure spectrum is available for 5G, this is being done in such an inequitable way that the FCC's moves will actually put us further behind in the race to 5G. For example, nearly 100 municipalities, public power utilities, and associations are suing the FCC over its small cell site regulations. Further, Mozilla and Santa Clara County are suing the FCC over its repeal of net neutrality protections.

I've introduced H.R. 2355, the *Regulatory Oversight Barring Obnoxious (ROBO) Calls and Texts Act*, which creates a Robocall Division at the FCC to combat the scourge of robocalls. Robocalls are the number one source of consumer complaint at the FCC, and the agency should organize its work to respond to consumer complaints. Chairman Pai has the authority to do this on his own but has failed to act.

I've written to the FCC with Rep. Yvette Clarke about major issues with the rollout of the National Verifier. As the FCC pushes National Verifier ahead in more states, it is denying Americans access to the Lifeline Program when they should be considered eligible.

I've introduced legislation and written letters to rectify some of the wissues at the FCC. What is lacking at the FCC is strong leadership committed to solve these problems. The American people don't care if a federal agency announces a summit or hosts meetings. They want and deserve a government that puts an end to the scourge of robocalls, ensures that wireless carriers aren't selling their geolocation data, and gives low-income Americans access to government programs they're eligible for.

I'm hopeful that this hearing will provide us with answers about all of the ways this captured agency is putting corporate interests ahead of the public interest.