

Opening Statement of Republican Leader Robert E. Latta
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
"Legislating to Secure America's Wireless Future"
September 27, 2019
As Prepared for Delivery

Welcome to today's subcommittee hearing to discuss legislation that seeks to address our network supply chain security and management of our spectrum resources. Thank you to our witness panel for being here.

There are several bipartisan bills on today's hearing that address the challenges we face to ensure our critical communications infrastructure is secure from vulnerabilities. I'm especially pleased to have worked with Chairman Doyle on H.R. 4462, the

SHARE Act, to empower our agencies to facilitate innovative spectrum sharing strategies to more efficiently use our airwaves. As the executive branch agency principally responsible for advising the President on spectrum and telecommunications matters, NTIA should continue to play the lead role directing a collective government approach to managing the Federal government's access to spectrum resources. This bill helps empower NTIA to use new tools to meet the challenge of growing wireless needs in the 21st century.

Today's hearing also features several bills to address vulnerabilities in our nation's communications networks, such as the inclusion of unsecure equipment. Many providers' networks contain gear supplied by suspect foreign carriers; however, this is only because the provider didn't understand the associated risks. The bills before us seek to prevent this type of situation from occurring on a forward-looking basis. Understandably, these providers are in a period of uncertainty and although they may want to do their part to protect national security, they may need help doing so.

The FCC has also voiced concerns about network security and proposed prohibiting USF recipients from using controversial equipment. So, as winners of the FCC's latest Connect America Fund II reverse auction come to grips with the buildout requirements accompanying these funds, it is critical that we work in a bipartisan way to ensure they can revisit how those conditions impact their winning bid in order to keep their equipment free from security vulnerabilities. Not only do we want to prevent Federal funding to pay for gear that may pose a national security risk, but we do not want winners of CAF auctions to be put in an unattainable

position of not being able to meet buildout requirements now that their cost estimates may have changed.

Thank you again to our witnesses for being here, and with that I yield the remainder of my time to my friend from Illinois, Mr. Kinzinger.