

Opening Statement of Republican Leader Cathy McMorris-Rodgers
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Subcommittee Markup on 7 Bills”
June 15, 2022

As Prepared for Delivery

Good morning, and welcome to today’s markup. Today we will be considering seven bills that have bipartisan support. While we still have more work to do before this legislation is considered by the full Committee, I want to thank my colleagues on this subcommittee for working diligently with us over the past several months to prepare for today.

This committee has a rich history of bipartisanship on the most pressing issues before us as a nation, especially in the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. Today we are reviewing many communications solutions that range from providing new tools to improve spectrum management to making it easier for victims of domestic violence to separate from a cellular service contract that is shared with their abuser.

I also want to thank my colleagues, Mr. Hudson and Ms. Eshoo, for working over the past several years to create a program to upgrade our nation’s aging 9-1-1 infrastructure. When Americans call 9-1-1, they expect a response. Texting, sending pictures, videos, or other content during an emergency will help our first responders assess the situation they are approaching and better respond.

This type of technology will be possible with a next-generation 9-1-1 network. These features cannot be utilized unless the infrastructure is there to support it, and I am proud to support our nation's first responders and 9-1-1 professionals by providing them with additional tools to protect our nation.

In addition, we are providing funds to small communications carriers to secure their networks. We must protect American data and information, and that starts by making sure our networks are secure. And we are doing all of this without spending a dime of taxpayer money. We're responsibly targeting resources by using proceeds from the spectrum auction to pay for these programs.

Finally, we are considering legislation to extend the FCC's spectrum auction authority by 18 months so they can continue to their work to make spectrum resources available without interruption.

As the demand for technology grows, additional spectrum resources are necessary to promote innovation so people can access technologies that improve their lives like faster internet, better cell service, and smart devices.

I encourage my colleagues to continue to work with us to include this legislation along with Mr. Guthrie's SMART Act with the Spectrum Innovation Act at full committee.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to our continued work to resolve any differences before the full committee markup so we build more support on these solutions. I encourage my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the remainder of my time.