

**Openings Statement of Representative Hudson
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Hearing on “Inclusion in Tech: How Diversity Benefits All Americans”
March 6, 2019**

“As Prepared for Delivery”

Thank you Madame Chair for recognizing me and for having this hearing. Today, we are joined by an exceptional panel of witnesses to examine inclusion and diversity in tech. I am proud to represent a district that has several institutions of higher education that have recognized the value a diverse workforce brings to the table.

As a member of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Caucus, I have seen firsthand how these institutions greatly contribute and prepare our students for a 21st Century workforce. Fayetteville State University is a prime example of this leadership. They are a recent recipient of a \$2 million grant for the project “Strengthening Student Success in STEM”. The project at Fayetteville State University seeks to build on previous successful efforts to increase the participation of African-American students in STEM disciplines through education and research.

Additionally, we will examine ways to include other groups of individuals including service-disabled veterans and military spouses. My district is home to the

Epicenter of the Universe, Fort Bragg, home of the Airborne and Special Operations Forces where we are no stranger to supporting these groups. Out of our community has come many businesses and entrepreneurs in the tech space including RLM Communications, a minority owned, service disabled veteran owned small business which has repeatedly been recognized for its outstanding work.

It is a fact that variety of experiences and perspectives yields better results. That is exactly what diversity brings to the table and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue. With that I'd like to yield to my friend, Mr. Gianforte of Montana.