

**Congress of the United States**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Small Business**  
2361 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6515

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**July 11, 2018**

**11:00 A.M., 2360 Rayburn House Office Building**

**TO: Members, Committee on Small Business**

**FROM: Steve Chabot, Chairman**

**DATE: Wednesday, July 4, 2018**

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The Committee on Small Business will meet for a hearing titled, “Innovation Nation: How Small Businesses in the Digital Technology Industry Use Intellectual Property.” The hearing is scheduled to begin at **11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 in Room 2360 of the Rayburn House Office Building.**

Digital technology allows small businesses to sell their products and services all over the world. Not only does digital technology benefit small businesses by lowering their operating costs, developing market automation, and improving customer relationships, but small businesses can expand by entering the digital technology industry themselves. More than just taking advantage of digital tools to improve a pre-existing small business, small businesses are becoming the digital tools, and small businesses in the digital technology industry continue to emerge. While each company is unique, these small businesses have developed first and foremost because of their utilization of technology. As a result of their unique innovations, small businesses create intellectual property, but in turn face challenges in protecting their ideas. This hearing will examine how small business owners in the digital technology industry utilize intellectual property and the issues they face when navigating the intellectual property processes.

A staff briefing will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Monday, July 9, 2018 in Room 2360 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

If you or your staff have questions, please contact Stephanie Fekete, Counsel for the Committee, at 202-225-5821.