

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**  
**Subcommittee on Communications & Technology Ranking Member Doris Matsui**  
***Hearing on “Liftoff: Unleashing Innovation in Satellite Communications Technologies.”***

**February 8, 2023**

Thank you, Chairman Latta.

I'm glad that we're building on the progress of our first hearing with another bipartisan discussion today.

The bills before us hold the potential to boost innovation, cut red tape, and increase security in the satellite ecosystem.

Having the perspective of both government agencies and industry representatives will give us a wholistic perspective that will help inform these bills as they move through the committee process.

As both the FCC and Congress move forward on updates to the satellite licensing process, hearings like this give us a chance to harmonize these efforts. It's important that this Committee and the FCC are working hand-in-glove to advance complimentary rather than conflicting policy.

The five bills before us today are bipartisan and cover a wide swath of issues crucial to the satellite marketplace.

Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone's SAT Streamlining Act would modernize the often-onerous licensing and market access process at the FCC.

Specifically, the bill would require reasonable shot clocks that would create a more responsive process at the FCC. It would also require the FCC to issue rules to promote tech-neutral rules of the road in space.

While this is still just a discussion draft, I look forward to working toward a consensus, bipartisan introduction. As ongoing feedback from the FCC and industry is considered, I know we're on the right track.

And as I mentioned at last week's hearing, I'm glad to see progress on the Secure Space Act. As an original cosponsor of the rip and replace bill, I know this is a national security and economic imperative.

The FCC has been doing great work keeping the covered entity list current and I'm excited to have an opportunity to discuss that work.

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We also have legislation on today's agenda that would make changes to the way some emergency alerts are handled. As a member of the California Delegation, I know the stakes for this information is literally life and death.

During emergencies like wildfires these alerts need to be accurate and timely. No exceptions. It's important we get policy in this space right and I'm looking forward to additional conversations on this bill.

We're also going to discuss the LAUNCHES Act from Representatives Soto and Dunn. As it stands now companies looking to conduct a commercial space launch must navigate a complex process of overlapping federal interests when seeking access to spectrum.

And, rather than coordinating multiple launches at once, this process can only be done on an individual basis, causing delays.

The LAUNCHES Act would require the FCC to continue its work streamlining this process. This will create more predictability for both federal and private organizations.

And finally, we've got a chance to discuss the Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act from Chairman Latta and Congresswoman Kelly which would require the FCC to report to Congress on opportunities to update its satellite rules to promote precision agriculture.

My new district is home to a rich tradition of agriculture with family farms that have been passed down through generations. These small communities are desperate for connectivity and modern farming tools to stay prosperous.

Bipartisan bills like this that reinforce the partnership between the FCC and Congress show we're serious about addressing the connectivity problems that plague farms across this country.

I'm glad to have witnesses from the government and industry before us today to discuss implementation and real-world implications of these bills.

On the government side, the FCC and NTIA have already taken crucial steps to advance U.S. leadership. I'd like to note that in January 2021 I urged then President-elect Biden to develop a unified approach to spectrum management and to consider updating the Memorandum of Understanding between the FCC and NTIA.

Thanks to the hard work of the two agencies before us today, that suggestion has come to fruition. I'm excited to hear more about how that new MOU can support better coordination on satellite regulations.

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We'll also hear from some of the most innovative companies in the satellite industry --- with applications that can expand connectivity in unserved places, increase consumer choice, and support our efforts to combat the climate crisis.

We have a lot to discuss and I'm eager to get started.

With that, I yield back the remainder of my time.