

Statement of Representative Anna G. Eshoo (as prepared)
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
FCC Reauthorization: Improving Commission Transparency
2123 Rayburn House Office Building
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We're here today under the headline of FCC process reform, but unfortunately, the Majority's three draft bills fall into a more dubious category.

Collectively, these bills will tie the agency in knots by undermining established Administrative Procedure Act (APA) precedents, establishing a new FCC-specific regime that jeopardizes regulatory certainty, and opens the door to legal challenges on every Commission action. By breaking the back of the delegated authority process, the legislation will encourage wholesale, last-minute lobbying to game the system, increasing the time and litigation related to FCC processes.

If the Majority's goal is reform, the Minority is prepared to offer constructive reform, not political retribution for the FCC's net neutrality rules. Here are some solid reform ideas:

- Across the country, businesses are upgrading their multi-line phone systems to provide direct dialing to 9-1-1 and accurate location information for first responders. As Commissioner Pai stated in testimony before this Subcommittee, "federal agency employees and visitors deserve the same direct access to emergency responders as those who work at and visit private facilities." I agree. The FCC should lead by example and upgrade its phone system to provide these critical public safety features.
- The Majority has stated and I agree that the public deserves timely responses from the FCC. As the Subcommittee of jurisdiction, it's our job to ensure the FCC is accountable. Requiring the FCC to publicly report the number of pending decisions, the types of requests that are pending and how long those requests have been pending will enhance transparency and hold the agency accountable for its actions.

- FCC process reform should also enhance the agency's efficiency and ensure Commissioners can more easily collaborate amongst themselves. The *FCC Collaboration Act of 2015* is a bipartisan, bicameral bill to allow Commissioners to more easily collaborate with one another outside of public meetings with the appropriate safeguards for transparency and accountability. Supported by both past and current FCC Commissioners, now is the time to get this commonsense legislation passed and signed into law.

Mr. Chairman, Democrats stand ready to work with you on serious-minded FCC reforms, not retributions related to the FCC's actions on net neutrality. I thank Chairman Wheeler and Commissioner O'Rielly for being here today, and I look forward to your testimony.