



COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & COMMERCE
RANKING MEMBER FRANK PALLONE, JR.

DEMOCRATS

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**Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for delivery
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on “Improving Federal Spectrum Systems”**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to continue this subcommittee’s conversation on spectrum policy. Spectrum policy is a bipartisan issue and I am proud of the bipartisan approach this subcommittee has been taking.

As I’ve noted before, we are witnessing a mobile revolution. The consumer’s insatiable demand for wireless services is a critical engine driving our economy. And this engine is powered by spectrum.

Fortunately, Congress, the Federal Communications Commission, and the National Telecommunication and Information Administration have been hard at work to meet this demand and keep the mobile economy moving forward. With support from this subcommittee, the FCC completed a record-shattering auction earlier this year that raised over \$40 billion. And we are all hoping for success in the upcoming incentive auction, which was authorized by a law that came out of this subcommittee.

So today we will continue to drive the effort to free more spectrum. We are taking the next step to make sure consumers continue to reap the benefits of the mobile economy. Together, the pair of bills we are looking at this morning have the potential to establish a spectrum pipeline to meet consumer needs well into the future. Like the broadcast incentive auction, the Matsui-Guthrie bill would encourage federal users to either vacate their current spectrum or relocate to another band in exchange for a percentage of the auction proceeds. This bill demonstrates that innovative thinking in the tech sector is not confined to the private sector.

I’m also pleased we are examining a bipartisan discussion draft offered by Representatives Clarke and Walden. This is an important effort that would require our agencies to continue to think about additional innovative ways to expand commercial broadband. I want to commend Representative Clarke, who is new to the Energy and Commerce Committee, for her immediate and keen understanding of the importance of addressing spectrum.

Together these bills are the first step in authorizing new auctions that can help serve the skyrocketing mobile needs of consumers.

Again, thank you, Mr. Chairman for keeping this subcommittee focused on spectrum in a bipartisan way. I'd like to yield the remainder of my time to Ms. Clarke.

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