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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 “Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission”**

Thank you Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Eshoo for holding this hearing. And thank you to all the Commissioners for coming up to talk with us once again.

This is the fourth FCC oversight hearing we have had this year. I certainly appreciate the extraordinary efforts the Republicans have put into overseeing the Commission. Oversight of all the agencies under our Committee’s jurisdiction is always a top priority for Democrats. Still, I wish the Committee had been as energetic this year about other problems the American people are grappling with, such as climate change, safe drinking water, or domestic violence in sports.

Nevertheless, today’s hearing is at least timely. We just recently commemorated the third anniversary of when Hurricane Sandy ripped through the East Coast. The storm left people across my district stranded without communications—some of them for weeks. So I have spent the past three years making sure we are better prepared for the next time disaster strikes. Because unless we do more to control climate change, there will be a next time.

That is why yesterday I introduced the SANDY Act to make sure people have better access to communications in an emergency. The bill recognizes the importance of phone service, TV, and radio during emergencies. I hope that the proposals in that bill, along with the efforts at the FCC to make networks more resilient will mean that we never have a repeat of the communications failures from three years ago.

But as important as network resiliency is, the FCC’s role in helping consumers is much broader. So I would like to briefly mention my other priorities for the Commission.

First, online video. The future of communications is video and the future of video is online and mobile. I thank the Commission for its ongoing work to understand this dynamic market. But I urge you to always remain focused on putting consumers first. Above all, the Commission’s priority should be making sure consumers are the ones deciding what services and devices meet their needs.

Second, spectrum. To make sure consumers can access the content they choose, wherever they choose, on whatever device they choose, they need more spectrum. The FCC is doing its part to meet this demand through its record-breaking spectrum auction earlier this year and its first-of-its-kind incentive

auction set for early next year. I hope that Congress can continue to do our part by building on our recent work in the Budget Deal. We must find new ways to free more spectrum—we have not done enough.

Before I yield my remaining time, I wanted to thank Chairman Walden for his willingness to revisit the matter of broadcast ownership. The Chairman called a hearing to explore this issue a few months ago, but had to cut it short. This is an issue that the American people care deeply about so I appreciate that the Chairman has offered to complete the hearing on December 3. I look forward to it.

Thank you again to our witnesses for being here. I look forward to hearing from you about all the important work the FCC is doing to help consumers.

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