

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**

**Opening Statement**

**of**

**Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky**

***Internet of Things Legislation***

**May 22, 2018**

This Subcommittee frequently discusses the Internet of Things. We have had hearings on IoT in manufacturing and wearable devices – not to mention our IoT showcase last summer. Today, we transition from general discussion to discussion of actual legislation.

The SMART IoT Act is a first step. It would require the Commerce Department to survey the use of connected devices and examine the federal role in this space.

As the bill acknowledges, internet-connected devices provide an opportunity for economic growth, but we want to ensure that those devices are deployed securely. My hope is that the report generated by the SMART IoT Act provides the foundation for further legislative efforts.

Our hearings on the Internet of Things have raised important issues. What privacy and cybersecurity protections are going to be baked into these devices? Normal household items can now collect very personal data that must be stored and used appropriately.

Connected devices present new safety concerns. The Consumer Product Safety Commission just held a public hearing on IoT and safety last week with stakeholders on that very subject.

We need the infrastructure to support the rise of connected devices, including affordable broadband.

The Internet of Things could also disrupt the current labor market. We must ensure workers are prepared for a changing economy.

Finally, we must make the strategic investments in research to promote future innovation.

Last week's hearing on quantum computing made clear that the U.S. is not providing the consistent support necessary to keep groundbreaking research moving forward.

Standing on the sidelines is not an option. These are big issues for Congress to tackle, and we must rise to the challenge. We know what happens if we rely on industry self-regulation: consumer privacy goes unprotected and safety is put at risk.

The SMART IoT Act should provide a resource for us to better address the variety of devices on the market.

I plan to use this information as I continue my push for comprehensive consumer privacy and data security legislation. We have had bipartisan furor over misuses of consumer data. It's time for bipartisan solutions to the problem.

The bill before us is a natural extension of the work that members of this Subcommittee have been doing for the last couple years. In 2016, Congressmen Latta and Welch convened stakeholders for several forums under their IoT Working Group to discuss the Internet of Things and the issues new technologies raise. In many ways, the study in the Smart IoT Act is a formalization of that survey.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to working on a bipartisan basis to move this legislation forward. And then I'm ready to take the next steps of updating consumer protections and funding key investments.

The Internet of Things has tremendous potential. We must work together to make sure Americans benefits from that opportunity. Thank you, Chairman Latta. I yield back.