

Committee on Energy and Commerce

Opening Statement

of

Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky

Subcommittee Vote on H.R. 6032, State of Modern Application, Research, and Trends of IoT (SMART IoT) Act

June 13, 2018

I am pleased to join with my colleagues today as we advance legislation to study the Internet of Things.

The SMART IoT Act is the product of bipartisan cooperation. I want to thank Chairman Latta and Congressman Welch for their leadership on this issue, going back to the IoT Working Group in the 114th Congress.

This bill will require the Commerce Department to survey the variety of connected devices available and examine the federal role in this space.

The study conducted under this bill should serve as the foundation for future legislative efforts as we work to ensure that internet-connected devices are deployed to the benefit of American consumers.

The SMART IoT Act is being considered under regular order. After a series of hearings on the Internet of Things, Republican and Democratic staff worked together on a discussion draft of the bill. Last month, we held a legislative hearing where we heard testimony from the Center for Democracy and Technology, Chamber of Commerce, and Intel.

That hearing raised several issues that we should continue to examine – including privacy, security, and safety.

Our subcommittee has proven its ability to work on a bipartisan basis when we advance legislation. However, I will note that this is the first subcommittee markup we have held this year and only the second in this Congress.

We are leaving major consumer protection issues unresolved. Most notably, this subcommittee has not pursued consumer privacy and data security legislation in the wake of the Equifax data breach and the Facebook scandal.

Our anger over misuse of consumer data has been bipartisan, but we have not yet come together on solutions.

As members of this subcommittee are aware, I have introduced the Secure and Protect Americans' Data Act, which I believe is a good starting point to begin discussion. I continue to

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urge my Republican colleagues to bring their ideas to the table so we work to find common ground. American consumers deserve action.

For now, I am pleased to move forward on legislation where we have reached consensus.

I look forward to continuing our cooperation on this legislation as it moves to full committee in the weeks ahead.

Thank you, Chairman Latta. I yield back.