

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce Chair Janice D. Schakowsky

Markup of 12 Bills

November 17, 2021

Today we are considering critical pieces of legislation, including two bills from my subcommittee.

These bills will make online marketplaces safer and fairer for consumers and strengthen our travel economy.

Online sales increased significantly during the pandemic as consumers sought to safely purchase the everyday goods they need.

However, American consumers face new dangers when purchasing goods online.

Counterfeit goods are readily available on popular consumer websites.

Not only do these products defraud consumers, they also pose a risk to health, safety, and security.

We cannot allow dangerous or stolen products sold online to line criminals' pockets.

Consumers deserve to shop with confidence and get what they pay for.

The INFORM Consumers Act, which I introduced with my colleague Ranking Member Bilirakis, will require online marketplaces to verify the identity of high-volume sellers.

It will protect consumers and legitimate businesses, increase trust in the marketplace, and discourage criminals and fraudsters.

The second bill, the Restoring Brand USA Act, from my colleagues Ranking Member Bilirakis and Representative Welch will help revitalize America's tourism industry in the wake of the pandemic.

It directs the Department of the Treasury to make \$250 million available for the Corporation for Travel Promotion, commonly known as "Brand USA."

Travel spending decreased by 42 percent from 2019 to 2020, amounting to \$492 billion in cumulative losses for the American travel economy.

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I look forward to moving these bills today to protect consumers and workers and strengthen our economy.

I yield back.