

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Communications & Technology Ranking Member Doris O. Matsui
Markup of Four Bills, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
March 12, 2024

Thank you, Chairman Latta. I'm glad this Committee is continuing its important work to reinforce U.S. leadership while securing existing technologies against bad actors.

Competition in the global tech marketplace has never been higher nor its consequences more significant. From semiconductors to next generation communications networks, American leadership is both an economic and national security imperative. I know firsthand from my work on the CHIPS Act that our economy and military are at their strongest when America is at the cutting edge of innovation. For years, America was home to the most advanced semiconductor design and manufacturing processes in the market. That ensured our military had access to technology generations ahead of our adversaries; making America's armed services the most sophisticated in the world.

But when we fall behind – as was the case in semiconductors – our economy slows and military readiness is threatened. Our communications networks are no different. We must ensure the United States remains the vanguard of innovation in the face of increased global competition. Thankfully, this Committee has a strong track record of boosting American innovation through legislation like what we'll be considering today.

I'm glad to see my FUTURE Networks Act on the agenda. For the United States to stay ahead of the rest of the world in wireless communications, we need to be taking steps to prepare for the next generation of networks. Because the economic and national security stakes in the global race to 6G couldn't be higher.

As China leans on Huawei and other companies to advance its interests in international standards setting bodies, the U.S. needs to stay vigilant and engaged. This bill would assemble our nation's brightest minds from industry, government, and academia on a 6G task force. The task force will provide vital insights on the development of 6G and these strategically important standards bodies. This bipartisan bill would make a crucial down payment on American leadership by ensuring the U.S. is taking the necessary steps to lead.

I'm also glad to see Chairman Latta's ROUTERS Act being advanced today. This bill would help eliminate routers and modems produced by our foreign adversaries from operating in U.S. networks. Routers and modems process huge amounts of American's personal data. And, if insecure, they provide a perfect backdoor for our foreign adversaries to exploit. This bill is a powerful step toward securing our digital ecosystem.

We'll also be considering legislation to combat the influence of adversarial governments across the technological landscape. Taken together, these bills will both address existing vulnerabilities while preventing new weak links in crucial technologies. I'm glad to be moving these bills to the full Committee and eventually the floor.

With that, I yield the balance of my time.