

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Ranking Member Doris Matsui

Markup of 1 Bill, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

February 10, 2026

Thank you, Chairman Hudson.

I'm glad we are moving FirstNet reauthorization forward. Keeping the public safe is one of our most fundamental responsibilities, and FirstNet is a core part of how we deliver on that duty.

When lives are on the line, first responders can't afford dropped connections or delayed information. They need priority service and strong coverage, especially when local networks are overloaded or infrastructure is damaged.

That's exactly why Congress created FirstNet, a nationwide broadband network built for public safety. This reauthorization takes what's working with FirstNet and makes it stronger.

We need greater transparency on performance and coverage, and clear accountability to the American people. We must also continue expanding interoperability, so agencies can communicate seamlessly across jurisdictions and providers.

We're off to a strong start, and now we need to stick the landing.

As we look ahead to full committee consideration of this bill, we'll keep working with public safety, industry, and other stakeholders to take in feedback and make adjustments where needed.

Our goal is straightforward: a stronger FirstNet that earns trust, expands coverage, and delivers reliable connectivity for first responders in every community.

Thank you, and I yield back.