Committee on Energy and Commerce

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

Hearing on "Where Are We?: Examining Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Capabilities in the United States"

June 4, 2026

Thank you, Chairman Hudson.

I'm glad we're holding this hearing today on Positioning, Navigation, and Timing solutions, or P-N-T. And I'm encouraged that this remains an area of bipartisan interest. This is a highly technical topic, but it affects Americans in very real ways.

GPS is the most common P-N-T system that we use every day. And most people don't think about it unless they're using a map. But GPS does a lot more than help us with directions. It is working in the background all day, every day. GPS helps keep your internet running, your payments moving, and your bank account safer from fraud. It helps first responders find you when you call 911. It helps planes and vehicles move safely. And it helps farmers, utilities, and businesses operate with precision. GPS has transformed our daily life, to the point where it's hard to imagine a world without it.

But that success also means we've become deeply reliant. And that creates real questions for Congress. What happens if GPS is jammed, spoofed, or attacked? What systems are most vulnerable? What backup solutions are available today— and which are mature, scalable, and ready to support critical infrastructure? And where do we still have gaps?

That's why this hearing matters. A serious attack on GPS could be catastrophic and cause billions of dollars of damage. It could shut down communications networks, emergency response, aviation, energy systems, agriculture, and the movement of goods across the country. And there's no single GPS alternative that can do it all. So we need to understand the full range of P-N-T technologies available that can help keep essential services operating when GPS is unavailable or unreliable.

Some of that work is already underway. Our Air Force and Space Force are working to modernize GPS to make it more secure, more resistant to jamming, and better prepared for today's threats. Local broadcasters in cities like Sacramento are already offering a glimpse of what GPS alternatives could look like. Through the rollout of A-T-S-C 3.0, Next Gen TV, local TV towers can help determine a user's location if GPS falls short.

We'll also hear from NextNav, which has developed a technology that can provide vertical location information, helping identify what floor someone is on in a high-rise building. And we'll hear from witnesses that have thought seriously about how we safely integrate these technologies.

These examples make one thing clear: Reliable backup P-N-T can strengthen national security, support innovation, and serve the public. But we must vet each technology carefully. It has to be proven, tested, and shown not to harm public safety, consumers, and critical services.

The FCC and other federal agencies must be the guardrails in this process. They must follow the facts, insist on sound science, and make sure public safety is not treated as an afterthought. The stakes are too high to cut corners.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses on how we can make GPS more resilient, where our P-N-T capabilities stand, what risks deserve the most attention, and how Congress can support innovation, reliability, and resilience in this critical space.

And with that, I yield back.