

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Member Doris Matsui

Markup of 16 Bills, Full Committee

September 16, 2026

Thank you, Chairman Guthrie.

I'm glad we're moving forward today on a bipartisan set of bills from the Communications and Technology Subcommittee. These proposals take on challenges Americans deal with every day, from scam robocalls to gaps in broadband service and cybersecurity.

I want to start by talking about a problem consumers know all too well - Illegal robocalls. Scammers overseas are using increasingly sophisticated technology, including AI, to steal money and personal information. The Foreign Robocall Elimination Act would strengthen coordination among agencies and better trace where these calls come from, so we can stop them before they reach consumers.

Today we will also consider The PLAN for Broadband Act and the Data BRIDGE Act, which address another issue I've worked on for years - closing the digital divide. We can't close the digital divide if we don't know where service is missing or have a clear strategy to reach those communities.

In the Sacramento region, families can live just twenty minutes from downtown and still struggle to get reliable broadband. And in the California Delta, reliable broadband is critical for farmers and rural families to thrive. But building networks is only part of the job. A broadband connection doesn't help if a family can't afford the monthly bill, doesn't have a device, or lacks the skills to use it. So I'll keep working to make affordable, reliable broadband available to every American.

I'm also glad we're moving forward on the Satellite and Telecommunications Streamlining Act. Satellite broadband can help reach hard-to-serve communities and disaster-stricken areas. This bill would create clearer FCC licensing deadlines, while preserving the Commission's ability to protect consumers and national security. States also retain the ability to enforce important affordability and consumer protections.

Finally, the AI for Secure Networks Act examines how AI can help defend our communications from cyber threats. That's important. But recent warnings from AI researchers and safety advocates make clear that we need to do MORE to address the risks from increasingly powerful AI systems.

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We can't treat safety as an afterthought. We need real guardrails, transparency, and accountability so AI serves consumers without exposing people to scams, cyberattacks, privacy violations, or other harms. And we cannot settle for weak, bare minimum safeguards if that means trading away states' ability to act quickly when new AI risks emerge.

As we move forward, I'll continue to focus on protecting consumers, connecting every community, keeping broadband affordable, and making sure the technologies Americans rely on are safe and secure.

With that, I yield back.