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Opening Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce

“Reauthorization of the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act” Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet February 24, 2009

Today’s hearing marks the very first step of the 111th Congress towards its required reauthorization of the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act, otherwise known as “SHVERA.”

Today is also the very first hearing of the newly constituted Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet.

The subcommittee has a new name, a new chairman, and several new members. I would like to congratulate Mr. Boucher on his chairmanship and welcome the new members of the subcommittee.

Mr. Boucher has a long history of service on this subcommittee and an exceptional command of telecommunications issues. I look forward to working closely with him, and Ranking Member Cliff Stearns, and relying on their expertise as we consider the reauthorization of SHVERA.

SHVERA is complicated and grew out of competing policy goals – promoting competition for pay-television service and protecting our nationwide system of free, over-the-air broadcast television.

Achieving these competing goals, especially during a time of dramatic change in the communications marketplace, requires a careful balancing of interests.

The panel before us today represents a diverse group of stakeholders. We are all anxious to hear your testimony and appreciate your participation.