

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Hearing on “Next Steps for Spectrum Policy”  
March 26, 2015**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Today the future of spectrum use and availability takes center stage - an issue that this subcommittee has rightly spent significant time considering. With the rise of mobile devices and the Internet of Things, American consumers' appetite for spectrum will only continue to grow. Some of the most important and successful work this committee has accomplished has centered on spectrum. We have examined many ways to make spectrum available and ensure that both federal users and commercial licensees are using it efficiently and effectively.

We've passed legislation that gives the FCC the tools it needs to conduct auctions and help meet the growing demand for low-band spectrum. We've also asked the FCC to report back on opportunities and challenges in other bands, particularly the 5 gigahertz (GHz) band. We look forward to hearing how work has progressed on finding solutions that allow for the expansion of unlicensed use in that band, without harming the blossoming Intelligent Transportation System technologies that will make driving safer.

The incentive auction legislation was achieved through bipartisan collaboration with the input of industry, engineers, and so many others. It's been more than three years since the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act was passed and the FCC has made good progress in the implementation of the legislation. This first of its kind auction will undoubtedly spur innovation, create jobs, and enable new technologies. If the recent AWS-3 auction is any indication of the level of success we'll see in the incentive auction – this will surely be a job well done. But there are still hurdles to be addressed before the auction can move forward, including border coordination. Representing a state that borders Canada, I am concerned that a failure to adequately solve cross-border coordination issues will mean less spectrum cleared for auction and reallocated for commercial use, and potentially impair the ability of folks in Michigan to receive broadcast signals over-the-air. As we ask broadcasters to make major decisions about the future of their stations, we need to be sure that we have answers for their valid questions about interference, signal protection, and their potential new station location.

Spectrum is a vital resource for the future of our economy and sound policy will ensure the continued leadership of the United States in the mobile space. As the committee responsible for this sector, it's essential that we continue to keep an eye on the status of the spectrum in the pipeline and what is being done to make it available for consumer use. If we do our jobs right, the future for consumers, jobs, and our economy is very bright.

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