

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Hearing on “The Evolution of Wired Communications Networks”  
October 23, 2013**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

If there is one thing that nearly everyone can agree on, it's the remarkable pace of technological innovation in our country. The march of technology waits for no one, and this is most vividly seen in how we communicate. Broadcasting brought the town square into our homes, the Internet brought the world of information to us, and wireless services made them all mobile. In such a rapidly evolving and converging marketplace, it's critical that our laws foster these changes and reflect our national focus on innovation.

Today's hearing will look specifically at wired communications networks, the technology that has enabled them, and what the future holds for their continued evolution. Wired networks are in the midst of a transition to Internet protocol and increasing use of fiber. These transitions are both inevitable and welcome and we should embrace them, and the benefits to jobs and the economy are unmistakable. Consumers stand to gain through new and improved services, as well as through the competition that these networks bring to other IP and data service providers.

In our modern communications marketplace, consumers have an unprecedented level of competition to serve the many ways we communicate. But our laws were written piecemeal to reflect the prevailing conditions of their time. Whether it was to break up a monopoly or in an attempt to legislate competition in existence, we should be taking a hard look at where technology is going and ensure that these strictures of the past do not hinder our future.

Thank you to all of our witnesses for your testimony today. I'd like to especially thank Mark Iannuzzi, CEO of TelNet, a Michigan-based company providing voice and data service to businesses across the state, including my district in southwest Michigan. We appreciate your input and insight into this important topic.

###