

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Communications and Technology Subcommittee Vote on the FCC Process Reform Act
and the FCC Consolidated Reporting Act
July 24, 2013**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Reforming FCC process is an issue that this subcommittee is no stranger to. Over the past two and a half years, we've held multiple hearings, marked up a bill last Congress, and passed a bill on the floor of the House. It is well established where my colleagues in the minority and I disagree on the specific language of this bill. However, we do agree that all government agencies should have a transparent, predictable, and consistent process that ensures the agency is productive in carrying out its responsibilities.

Two weeks ago, this subcommittee met for a legislative hearing on these two bills. I'm proud to say that there was little to no disagreement on the need for and language in the consolidated reporting bill. Reducing the burden on the FCC to produce multiple reports and instead produce one comprehensive and informative review of the marketplace is the kind of common-sense legislation that this committee has dedicated itself to in working to prepare our government to be more nimble in the information economy. I look forward to moving this bill expeditiously with bipartisan support.

At that same hearing, however, some of the witnesses and my colleagues expressed concerns with certain aspects of the process reform bill. The version that we are considering today incorporates a number of changes that were suggested in that hearing. This kind of productive, bipartisan debate has been a hallmark of this subcommittee and it has produced successful collaborative legislation in the past. To that end, in lieu of lengthy debate on a number of amendments, earlier today Ranking Members Waxman and Eshoo agreed to vote this bill out of subcommittee and to continue working together to try and find a legislative solution that achieves our shared goal.

Make no mistake, I stand behind the language in this bill. I believe that it would produce a more productive and predictable FCC that could serve as a model for administrative agencies throughout the federal government. But despite our differences, I am not ready to throw in the towel on a bipartisan approach. I have instructed my staff to work over the August recess with their counterparts in Mr. Waxman and Ms. Eshoo's offices to try and reach agreement. I thank the ranking members for their willingness to continue these important discussions.

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