

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Energy and Commerce Committee**  
**Full Committee Markup**  
**December 10, 2013**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Today we convene our eighth and final full committee markup of the year. We have had many successes, and I am pleased to report that four out of the last ten laws signed by the president were products of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Today, we look forward to building on that bipartisan success as we continue our efforts to create jobs, protect the public and our communities, and modernize government for the innovation era.

First, we will continue our proud efforts this Congress to improve public health. H.R. 3527, the Poison Center Network Act, would reauthorize funding for our nation's poison control centers. The issue is of particular importance to me as I led the successful House effort a decade ago. A critical member of our communities, the centers are always on call, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing a lifeline when one is needed most. The centers also help our health system save money, as many of these crisis calls can avert a costly visit to the emergency room. And they are a public-private success-story with federal funds providing only a small portion of the poison centers budget.

The committee will also consider H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act, which would address a problem that affects millions of Americans, including veterans and children. This bill would assist states in developing and expanding service delivery capacity for individuals with a traumatic brain injury, as well as authorize funding for important tracking and prevention activities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The toll that brain injuries take on patients and their families cannot be overstated, and this bill seeks to alleviate that burden and further provides an opportunity for recovery.

I would also note that although we announced H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Lives Reauthorization Act, for possible consideration, colleagues on both sides of the aisle continue to work on the bill and we look forward to considering it in the new year.

The committee will next consider H.R. 724 to remove an unnecessary and outdated requirement for auto dealers to provide certification of emissions standards compliance for new light-duty motor vehicles. Clean Air Act measures already ensure that new vehicles offered for sale comply with the standards, and the Environmental Protection Agency no longer enforces this requirement. This is a simple way we can cut red tape and lower burdens for job creators.

We will also consider bipartisan legislation that aims to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Israel on energy development and deployment. By amending the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the legislation will encourage increased collaboration between the two countries and expand U.S.—Israel cooperative programs to include natural gas projects.

Finally, the committee will consider two bills related to communications and technology. Reforming FCC process has been the subject of significant work in the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology over the last three years. The amendment in the nature of a substitute that will be offered by Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Eshoo is the culmination of months of work by members and staff to find common ground for an approach that will make the FCC a stronger, more accountable agency. I hope that the committee will favorably report the bill and that we can move this bill to the Senate where it - and its companion legislation, the unanimously passed FCC Consolidated Reporting Act - can be swiftly brought to the floor.

Lastly, the committee will consider H.R. 3674, the Federal Spectrum Incentive Act, another example of the kind of bipartisan work that can move a good idea forward. The bill is an innovative approach that will give government agencies a financial incentive to continue the hard work of making ever more efficient

use of the public's airwaves. Bringing more spectrum to auction to fuel our national need for mobile broadband is not only good for the country's bottom line, it will continue to produce jobs and fuel our national economy.

We have much to be proud of this past year and our bipartisan work has made a difference. I want to thank the members and committee staff for their tireless efforts, and I look forward on building on our record of success when we vote tomorrow.

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