

**Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
**Markup of H.R. 3309 and H.R. 3310**  
**November 16, 2011**  
*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

The communications and technology sector is one of the largest drivers of our economy and one that continues to create high-quality jobs despite the sluggish national economy. Consistency and transparency from the FCC will not only produce better decisions, they will help create confidence and certainty that will promote increased investment, innovation, and jobs.

When we took over the majority in the House of Representatives, Chairman Walden and the GOP transition team took a fresh look at how the House was run. In the past, both parties had allowed the House to fall into bad habits, to follow poor procedure, and to let transparency become a victim of expediency. I'm proud to say that the current GOP majority has led by example in showing that good process leads to quality results. Today's bills are the result of that good process. Chairman Walden held a hearing with the Commissioners to gauge the state of the FCC, a second hearing with interested stakeholders to gather a more complete record, and has been responsive to the bipartisan debate on Capitol Hill on how this legislation would change the Commission. The process by which these bills have come to this markup is exactly the type of process this bill would demand of the FCC.

Even the FCC has recognized the need to make government processes more transparent. The Commission recently tightened the constraints on when parties can lobby the FCC without informing the public of what was said—now the public can better watch what private parties are doing at the Commission. But now it's time for the FCC to make itself more transparent and accountable. Today's bills would require the FCC to live up to the same standards that it demands of the public.

Expecting transparency and accountability from Congress and from federal agencies should be a nonpartisan issue. I'm glad to support these bills so that America's small businesses, entrepreneurs, and job creators can actually see what their government is doing.

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