

**Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Markup of Discussion Draft of the "Jumpstarting Opportunity
with Broadband Spectrum (JOBS) Act of 2011"
December 1, 2011**

This subcommittee has held five hearings to examine how the right spectrum policy can provide much-needed additional broadband for consumers, meet the needs of public safety, create jobs, reduce the deficit, and foster innovation across all spectrum-based services. The legislation we take up today represents what we believe to be a solid base for achieving these goals.

Most importantly, this bill will provide the communications and technology sectors with the tools they need to create jobs and economic growth. Some estimates of the impact of spectrum legislation have predicted as many as 100,000 jobs could be created by the legislation we consider today. America's unemployed and the overall economy cannot wait any longer.

Jobs are essential, but they are not the only benefit of this bill. Through incentive auctions, the JOBS Act will meet the growing demand for commercial wireless broadband services and all the innovation that comes with expanded spectrum availability. The bill will also generate in the neighborhood of \$15 billion in auction revenue for the American taxpayer.

The JOBS Act also responds to the needs of public safety – it reallocates the D block to give public safety the 20 MHz of contiguous spectrum they have consistently requested, along with a governance model and funding to help make an interoperable public safety broadband network a reality.

Finally, this bill takes the lessons learned in previous auctions of government spectrum and fine-tunes the process. This will help meet the needs of the government agencies that are relocating; it will also make the repurposed spectrum available for commercial services more quickly.

Despite Chairman Walden's extraordinary efforts to craft a bipartisan bill, the minority has been unwilling to make any significant concessions from their original position. As a result, we are moving forward today with a draft that does not have the bipartisan support we had hoped, but one that nonetheless incorporates many of the suggestions made by the Democrats throughout the negotiation process. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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