

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

Today, a year's worth of negotiations, hearings, and incredible work by members and our staffs comes to a head. Today, we have the unique opportunity to get good things done for the American people. Today, we will mark up and pass the Jumpstarting Opportunity with Broadband Spectrum Act of 2011, the JOBS Act. Primarily, this legislation is about getting America's economy going again. It is a bill that frees up vast swaths of valuable spectrum, both licensed and unlicensed, that when put into service will unleash new technologies. It will spur innovation. And both sides agree it will create as many as 100,000 new American jobs.

Think what the advent of wireless broadband has meant to our country, our culture, and our economy. The JOBS Act takes all of that innovation to a new level and creates real private sector jobs. And in the process the companies who want this spectrum will pay the taxpayers for it, generating upwards of \$15 billion toward paying down the deficit and finally meeting the needs of our valued public safety officials by building them their own nationally interoperable public safety broadband network.

The JOBS Act does all of these things and more. For the nation's free, over-the-air broadcasters who just went through an expensive and difficult, federally mandated conversion to digital, the JOBS Act provides their viewers the best protection of any competing legislation to make sure Americans can continue to watch their favorite shows and get their news even if their stations shift frequencies.

The JOBS Act didn't just drop out of the sky. It is thoughtful and carefully crafted legislation that finds the right balances. Its provisions were improved as a result of the input and counsel from five hearings, eleven months of discussions with members of both sides of this committee, the FCC and NTIA, the industries that rely on spectrum to bring us television and broadband, broadcasters, amateur radio operators, and public safety officials who help us when we need it most.

Throughout this process my staff and I have worked in good faith to find a bipartisan solution. Ms. Eshoo and I met on nine separate occasions, the last of which included Mr. Waxman in early October. A week after that meeting, however, Mr. Waxman wrote to the Super Committee and asked them to take up the spectrum issue as part of their efforts. I have a copy of his letter for the record. It was at that point that our discussions were suspended while the Super Committee was given an opportunity to work.

However, I have long been committed privately and publicly to getting legislation done by the end of this year. Our economy needs the help, Americans need new jobs, we need to generate revenue to reduce our debt, and we need to fulfill our commitment to public safety. The JOBS Act does all of these things. And does them well. So today, despite calls for delay, we are moving forward.

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