

NTIA's role has drastically changed since it was last reauthorized, and I appreciate the work from the agency and my colleagues to update its authorizing statute.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2482, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), the ranking member of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee and a leader in this field.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DINGELL for yielding me time, and I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), my friend, for his bipartisan partnership on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the NTIA Reauthorization Act. We introduced this bill to ensure America continues to stand as a global leader in communications and technology.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA, plays a vital role in ensuring the United States' strong technological leadership.

This Federal agency is integral for getting people connected, ensuring we can communicate in emergencies, and bolstering our cybersecurity infrastructure. Yet, Congress has not reauthorized NTIA in over 30 years.

The pace of innovation and demand for connectivity has increased dramatically over the last few years. We need strong leadership and expertise to help us meet this demand.

NTIA advises on the rapid deployment of artificial intelligence and manages the efficient uses of our airways. NTIA is also charged with carrying out the bipartisan infrastructure law's historic \$65 billion investment to expand affordable and reliable high-speed internet access to communities across America, communities like the Sacramento region where, just 20 minutes outside the city, rural areas still suffer major gaps in broadband coverage.

Progress to close the digital divide, however, is currently at a standstill. This critical broadband funding must not be delayed. We cannot risk changes that waste taxpayer dollars and strand Americans with less affordable and more expensive internet.

We need NTIA to get back to helping our communities access Federal funding. This includes giving our States the flexibility to move ahead with their plans to expand affordable internet to the tens of millions of Americans who still lack access.

While I am glad and very happy to co-lead this bipartisan bill to modernize NTIA's mission in areas like Federal spectrum management and international negotiations, I know there is a lot of work ahead.

Today, we must pass this legislation to empower NTIA to keep the United States as the leader of global tech.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY).

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in strong support of H.R. 2482.

Today, I am so pleased to support this long-overdue reauthorization of NTIA, a small but mighty agency housed within the Department of Commerce.

This important agency is esteemed by both public and private stakeholders around the globe, and it is staffed by incredibly experienced engineers, technical experts, and tech policy professionals who understand the breadth and depth of telecom and AI impacting our country.

I say this because I had the privilege of recently serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Administrator of NTIA, this amazing agency. I well understand how much the world and telecom policy have changed since NTIA was reauthorized by Congress over three decades ago. A lot has happened since then.

This legislation, as my colleague said, does make it better "fit for purpose" by codifying the important Office of Spectrum Management, the division which oversees the spectrum allocations for our country's agencies. During the past few years, I watched it work to finalize our national strategy on spectrum and represent our country at the ITU World Radio Conference and other technical conferences.

This is important because this technical work is key and underpins our U.S. competitiveness and national security and paves the way for new technologies to thrive through the reallocation of spectrum, spectrum like 6G, and its work on technical standards vis-à-vis China and other international players.

Moreover, this legislation codifies its international office to work on tech issues raised in international venues, such as the EU and ITU, public wireless supply chains, and national competitiveness issues. As my colleague said, it is very important for the resources for the broadband division in its work on finally rolling out the rest of the broadband grants for universal high-speed internet access and to finally close the digital divide.

Lastly, I can't help but say the public safety division is essential for NG911 services and FirstNet.

I commend the committee for this much-needed network, and I ask my colleagues to join me in support.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 2482, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LATTA and Ranking Member MATSUI for this very important, vital bill.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on this particular bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2482, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## REMOVING OUR UNSECURE TECHNOLOGIES TO ENSURE RELIABILITY AND SECURITY ACT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 866) to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to conduct a study of the national security risks posed by consumer routers, modems, and devices that combine a modem and router, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 866

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Removing Our Unsecure Technologies to Ensure Reliability and Security Act" or the "ROUTERS Act".*

### SEC. 2. STUDY OF RISKS POSED BY CERTAIN ROUTERS AND MODEMS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall conduct a study of the national security risks and cybersecurity vulnerabilities posed by consumer routers, modems, and devices that combine a modem and router that are designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the influence of a covered country.

(b) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) *CONSULTATION WITHIN DEPARTMENT.*—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with appropriate bureaus and offices within the Department of Commerce.

(d) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

(1) *COVERED COUNTRY.*—The term "covered country" means a country specified in section 4872(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) *SECRETARY.*—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on this particular bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 866, the ROUTERS Act, led by Chairman LATTA, my good friend.

Nearly everyone in America has a router or a modem in their home, but these devices can have security vulnerabilities that can be exploited by our adversaries, unfortunately.

The ROUTERS Act would direct the Department of Commerce to study the national security risks and cybersecurity vulnerabilities posed by routers and modems produced by companies with ties to foreign adversaries. This study will help Congress understand the security of these devices.

This legislation passed by voice vote last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to support it once again.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 866, the Removing Our Unsecure Technologies to Ensure Reliability and Security Act, or the ROUTERS Act.

This legislation is an important step to provide Americans with the confidence to trust that the devices they use in their homes to connect to the internet are free from the influence of our foreign adversaries.

H.R. 866 accomplishes this objective by requiring the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to study the national security risks and cybersecurity vulnerabilities in American homes posed by routers and modems manufactured or sold by entities with ties to our foreign adversary countries. The Secretary must also deliver a report to Congress of this study within 1 year.

It is crucial that we understand the cybersecurity and national security risks networks face from equipment that originates from our foreign adversaries. This is especially true given that our Nation's communication networks are an integral component of nearly every facet of American life, which also makes them prime targets for attack.

This legislation will help us better protect American families and our country from bad actors who want to carry out malicious attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives KELLY and LATTA for their bipartisan work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 866, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the chair of the subcommittee, for yielding.

I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 866, the ROUTERS Act.

Routers and modems play a key role in communications networks. They are the entry point through which the public accesses the internet. Thus, we make sure that they are secure.

Bad actors can exploit vulnerabilities in routers to infect users' computers, access their information, or disrupt their network.

National security agencies, including the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Homeland Security, have reported on the threat posed by vulnerabilities in routers and how some Chinese Communist Party-sponsored hackers have used these vulnerabilities to launch attacks. We should take these reports seriously.

Further, we know that companies with ties to the CCP could be forced to support Chinese intelligence activities. We can imagine how they could use vulnerabilities in their equipment to aid these efforts.

That is why I am pleased to sponsor the ROUTERS Act, which would direct the Secretary of Commerce through the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information to study the national security risk posed by routers and modems produced by companies with ties to foreign adversaries. This study will help Congress understand the scope and risk of this threat and will inform whether we need to remove this equipment from our networks.

The legislation builds on our bipartisan efforts to remove untrusted equipment from our communications ecosystem. In the past 5 years, we passed the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act to remove Huawei and ZTE equipment from our networks and the Secure Equipment Act, which prohibits the Federal Communications Commission from authorizing equipment from untrusted vendors.

It is imperative we move forward with these efforts to mitigate the widespread availability of this equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 866, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to protect American citizens and support the ROUTERS Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge a "yes" vote on this particular vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 866, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## RURAL BROADBAND PROTECTION ACT OF 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2399) to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2399

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rural Broadband Protection Act of 2025".

### SEC. 2. VETTING PROCESS FOR PROSPECTIVE HIGH-COST UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND APPLICANTS.

Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(m) VETTING OF HIGH-COST FUND RECIPIENTS.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'covered funding' means any new offer of high-cost universal service program funding, including funding provided through a reverse competitive bidding mechanism provided under this section, for the deployment of a broadband-capable network and the provision of supported services over the network; and

"(B) the term 'new covered funding award' means an award of covered funding that is made based on an application submitted to the Commission on or after the date on which rules are promulgated under paragraph (2).

"(2) COMMISSION RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding to establish a vetting process for applicants for, and other recipients of, a new covered funding award.

"(3) CONTENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In promulgating rules under paragraph (2), the Commission shall provide that, consistent with principles of technology neutrality, the Commission will only award covered funding to applicants that can demonstrate that they meet the qualifications in subparagraph (B).

"(B) QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED.—An applicant for a new covered funding award shall include in the initial application a proposal containing sufficient detail and documentation for the Commission to ascertain that the applicant possesses the technical, financial, and operational capabilities, and has a reasonable business plan, to deploy the proposed network and deliver services with the relevant performance characteristics and requirements defined by the Commission and as pledged by the applicant.

"(C) EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL.—The Commission shall evaluate a proposal described in subparagraph (B) against—

"(i) reasonable and well-established technical, financial, and operational standards, including the technical standards adopted by the Commission in orders of the Commission relating to Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection (WC Docket No. 19-195) (or orders of the Commission relating to modernizing any successor collection) for purposes of entities that must report broadband availability coverage; and

"(ii) the applicant's history of complying with requirements in the Commission and