

Office of Policy Analysis and Development at the NTIA and renames it the Office of Policy Development and Cybersecurity. It also codifies the responsibilities of NTIA in administering parts of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act and requires the office to coordinate and develop policy initiatives to enhance cybersecurity efforts with respect to our communications networks.

The office will also be tasked with developing and analyzing policies that promote innovation, competition, and workforce development in the communications, media, and technology markets.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives OBERNOLTE and MCCLELLAN for their bipartisan work on this bill, which will ensure that there is a firm foundation within the Federal Government to oversee the security of our Nation's communications networks. This legislation is more important now than ever given our foreign adversaries' continued attacks on these networks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE), the bill's sponsor from California's 23rd District.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in proud support of my bill, H.R. 1766, the NTIA Policy and Cybersecurity Coordination Act.

Mr. Speaker, as more and more of Americans' lives move into a digital format, it is leaving the information of Americans more and more vulnerable to cyberattacks. That is why it is critical that we establish cybersecurity protocols and capabilities to counter the threats not just of foreign actors but of cybercriminals and transnational criminal organizations who attempt to breach our data security and access the data of Americans.

This bill is an important step towards doing that. It establishes a new Office of Policy Development and Cybersecurity within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The role of this office would be to research the cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the American economy and within our government and to coordinate efforts to counter cyber threats within those organizations.

Mr. Speaker, cybersecurity is national security, and this bill is a meaningful step towards achieving that for the people who we represent.

I thank my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee for their support on this bill, as well as my bipartisan co-lead, Congresswoman MCCLELLAN, and urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN), a member of our committee.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1766,

the NTIA Policy and Cybersecurity Coordination Act, which I was pleased to introduce with the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. Speaker, this important bipartisan legislation would cement the responsibilities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA, by codifying, renaming, and enhancing the work of its Office of Policy Analysis and Development, which plays a critical role in shaping our Nation's telecommunications and information objectives.

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NTIA is already central to advancing market-driven strategies that foster innovation, expand broadband deployment, and promote a competitive digital economy. However, this legislation ensures that NTIA is equally empowered to help safeguard that digital future, particularly as the cybersecurity threats we face grow more complex and more dangerous by the day.

Last year's Salt Typhoon cyberattack was one of the most sophisticated and malicious efforts to infiltrate our telecommunications networks. It was a sobering reminder of how vulnerable our communications infrastructure remains and how deeply those vulnerabilities can impact multiple sectors from healthcare to national security.

In today's interconnected world, a breach in one wireless network can compromise critical services in transportation, healthcare, finance, and public safety. As our reliance on digital technologies increases, so too does the scale and sophistication of these threats, especially with the rise of artificial intelligence.

While AI holds tremendous potential to improve efficiency, optimize networks, and revolutionize industries, it also introduces new cybersecurity risks.

Foreign adversaries and malicious actors are already leveraging AI to enhance phishing campaigns, automate malware, and exploit zero-day vulnerabilities faster than ever before. These tools can evade traditional defenses, manipulate systems, and do so at a scale and speed that we have never encountered or imagined before.

That is why this legislation is so timely and so necessary. By reinforcing the NTIA's authority and resources in cybersecurity policy, we position the agency to not only be a leader in innovation and broadband expansion but a central player in securing the Nation's digital infrastructure against these emerging threats.

As the principal adviser to the President on telecommunications and information policy, NTIA must be equipped to identify risks early, coordinate effectively across agencies, and shape forward-looking policies that protect American consumers, businesses, and critical services.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleague for introducing this bill, and I urge my

fellow Members to join me in supporting it. Strengthening NTIA's cybersecurity capabilities is not just a matter of good governance but a national security imperative.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge bipartisan support for this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, as you can see from today's bills coming from the Energy and Commerce Committee, cybersecurity is high on our list to make sure we are protecting the American public. I strongly ask my colleagues to support this legislation of the gentleman from California's 23rd and the gentlewoman from Virginia's 4th District. I request an "aye" vote on this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1766.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 517. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for postponing certain deadlines by reason of disaster.

#### INSTITUTE FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SCIENCES CODIFICATION ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1455) to codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1455

*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 "Institute for Telecommunication Sciences Codification Act" or the "ITS Codification Act".

#### SEC. 2. INSTITUTE FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SCIENCES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The test center within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (in this subsection referred to

as the "NTIA") represents executive branch agencies on spectrum issues before the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) Understanding radio frequency propagation characteristics and modeling is a critical component of making spectrum decisions.

(3) Federal agencies rely on expert engineering studies, simulations, and analyses to make determinations about how to make spectrum available for commercial use, including through system relocations and identifying spectrum sharing opportunities through the NTIA.

(4) Clearing of Federal spectrum, when feasible, is the priority action to take to make Federal spectrum available for commercial uses as required by section 113(j)(1) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 923(j)(1)).

(5) Sharing of Federal spectrum between Federal entities and commercial entities provides access to Federal spectrum for commercial uses in circumstances where clearing is not feasible.

(6) The test center within the NTIA is the Government's premier expert laboratory for spectrum research activities, spectrum sharing innovation and testing, spectrum interference studies, and all activities related to advancing next generation wireless technologies.

(7) The test center within the NTIA is critical for undertaking engineering studies and analyses that inform clearing or sharing opportunities and facilitate policy decisions to maximize the efficient use of spectrum resources.

(b) OPERATION OF TEST CENTER.—Part A of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**"SEC. 106. INSTITUTE FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SCIENCES.**

**"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—**

**"(1) IN GENERAL.—**Under the authority provided to the Assistant Secretary under section 103, the Assistant Secretary shall operate a test center to be known as the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (in this section referred to as "ITS").

**"(2) FUNCTIONS.—**

**"(A) IN GENERAL.—**In addition to any functions delegated by the Assistant Secretary under subparagraph (B), ITS shall serve as the primary laboratory for the executive branch of the Federal Government to—

**"(i)** study radio frequency emissions, including technologies and techniques to control such emissions and interference caused by such emissions;

**"(ii)** determine spectrum propagation characteristics;

**"(iii)** conduct tests on technology that enhances the sharing of electromagnetic spectrum between Federal and non-Federal users;

**"(iv)** improve the interference tolerance of Federal systems operating with, or using, Federal spectrum;

**"(v)** promote activities relating to access to Federal spectrum by non-Federal users and the sharing of Federal spectrum between Federal and non-Federal users; and

**"(vi)** conduct such other activities as determined necessary by the Assistant Secretary.

**"(B) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS.—**The Assistant Secretary may delegate to ITS any of the functions assigned to the Assistant Secretary under section 103(b)(1).

**"(3) AGREEMENTS AND TRANSACTIONS.—**In carrying out the functions described in paragraph (2), the Assistant Secretary, acting through the head of ITS, may enter into agreements as provided under the following authorities:

**"(A)** Sections 11 and 12 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710; 3710a).

**"(B)** Section 1535 of title 31, United States Code.

**"(C)** Sections 207 and 209 of title 35, United States Code.

**"(D)** Section 103(b)(2) of this Act.

**"(E)** Section 113(g) of this Act.

**"(F)** The first undesignated section of Public Law 91-412.

**"(G)** Any authorization in any other Federal statute.

**"(4) FEDERAL SPECTRUM DEFINED.—**In this subsection, the term 'Federal spectrum' means frequencies assigned on a primary basis to a Federal entity (as defined in section 113(l)).

**"(b) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION AND TRACKING TECHNOLOGIES INITIATIVE.—**

**"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—**The Assistant Secretary, acting through the head of ITS, shall establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies for use in locating trapped individuals in confined spaces, such as underground mines, and other shielded environments, such as high-rise buildings or collapsed structures, where conventional radio communication is limited.

**"(2) ACTIVITIES.—**In order to carry out this subsection, the Assistant Secretary, acting through the head of ITS, shall work with private sector entities and the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, to—

**"(A)** perform a needs assessment to identify and evaluate the measurement, technical specifications, and conformity assessment needs required to improve the operation and reliability of such emergency communication and tracking technologies; and

**"(B)** support the development of technical specifications and conformance architecture to improve the operation and reliability of such emergency communication and tracking technologies.

**"(3) REPORT.—**Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available, a report on the assessment performed under paragraph (2)(A)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1455, the Institute for Telecommunications Sciences Codification Act, or ITS Codification Act, led by the Representative from Georgia's First District and the Representative from Colorado's Seventh District.

As demand for wireless technology continues to grow, we must continue to focus on identifying potential opportunities that make more spectrum avail-

able for commercial use, including reallocating and sharing spectrum.

Complex, technical engineering testing and analysis underpins these important decisions on how best to maximize our airwaves for commercial use while preserving essential Federal missions.

The Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, or ITS, within NTIA plays an essential role in conducting the tests that guide spectrum reallocation or sharing decisions. ITS will also help ensure that NTIA, as the Federal spectrum manager, can continue to find opportunities to unleash commercial wireless innovation, while also ensuring military readiness, securing our southern border, advancing scientific discovery, and other Federal missions are successful.

The work ITS performs has led to innovative advancements in the way we manage our airways. These airways power faster mobile connectivity for Americans, and making more spectrum available in the future is critical to beating Communist China and ensuring our continued economic and national security.

The ITS Codification Act will strengthen the statutory authority for ITS and ensure that the work that they do to advance United States technological leadership remains a key part of our approach. This bipartisan legislation passed by a voice vote last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1455, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1455, the Institute for Telecommunications Sciences Codification Act, or ITS Codification Act.

The Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, or ITS, is the premier engineering laboratory of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA.

Among its many responsibilities, ITS manages various technology development programs for NTIA and the Department of Commerce and oversees cutting-edge studies concerning the use of our country's airwaves. ITS has played a significant role in furthering telecommunication advancements for our country's benefit.

H.R. 1455 recognizes the numerous contributions of ITS by providing it with additional statutory authority. Under this bill, ITS will serve as the primary laboratory for the executive branch of the Federal Government to study wireless technologies, including the use of innovative sharing technologies for our airwaves and improving the Federal Government's use of spectrum.

The legislation also will allow the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, acting through the head of ITS, to enter into agreements needed to carry out the functions of the laboratory.

This bill also requires the Assistant Secretary to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communications and tracking technologies. These technologies would then be used to locate people trapped in areas where wireless connectivity may not be available due to natural disasters and other devastating events.

I commend Representatives PETTERSEN and CARTER for their bipartisan work on this bill. It will ensure that one of our Nation's key telecommunications facilities has the necessary tools and resources to not only continue its important work but also expand its activities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1455, the ITS Codification Act.

This legislation would codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, ITS, which plays a critical role in making spectrum available for commercial use.

As we examine how Federal and commercial spectrum is allocated, it is our job as Members to ensure the agencies tasked with managing spectrum have the technical resources they need to be successful in their missions.

ITS is an essential part of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA, and we must strengthen its statutory authority to ensure it continues informing important spectrum policy decisions.

This testing center will also play an important role in America's ability to stay ahead of international competitors like China on spectrum policy.

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I am confident that ITS will continue to contribute to innovative advancements that are crucial to our global competitiveness.

This bill also directs ITS to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies for use in locating trapped individuals in confined spaces. This is an important initiative that has the potential to protect and save American lives.

Last Congress, this bill went through regular order and enjoyed unanimous support on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bill. It is, obviously, very important.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, for a good number of years in the Energy and

Commerce Committee, especially in the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, one of the things we have talked about is how much more spectrum we have to have in this country to move forward.

For us to stay number one in the world in this sector, it is absolutely essential that this piece of legislation is supported and agreed to by the House, and I ask for support of the legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1455.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### OPEN RAN OUTREACH ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2037) to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2037

*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 "Open RAN Outreach Act".*

#### SEC. 2. OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL PROVIDERS REGARDING OPEN RAN NETWORKS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Assistant Secretary shall conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to small communications network providers—

(1) *to raise awareness regarding the uses, benefits, and challenges of Open RAN networks and other open network architectures; and*

(2) *regarding participation in the Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program established under section 9202(a)(1) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283).*

(b) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

(1) *ASSISTANT SECRETARY.*—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, acting through the head of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth.

(2) *OPEN NETWORK ARCHITECTURE.*—The term "open network architecture" means Open RAN networks and other network elements that follow a set of published open standards for multi-vendor network equipment interoperability, including open core and open transport.

(3) *OPEN RAN NETWORK.*—The term "Open RAN network" means a wireless network that follows the Open Radio Access Network architecture and published open standards for multi-vendor network equipment interoperability.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2037, the Open RAN Outreach Act, led by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), who represents the Second District.

This legislation helps pave the way for greater U.S. competition with China by promoting technology that encourages vendor diversity. Specifically, this legislation requires NTIA to provide support to all of our small and rural communications providers that want to deploy Open RAN technology. Promoting a more competitive market of trusted vendors to provide 5G equipment remains an important strategic component to protect U.S. networks.

As an open network infrastructure, Open RAN technology can help diversify communications technology by allowing multiple components from multiple manufacturers. This bill will give small and rural providers important information and support to deploy Open RAN technologies if providers would like to implement this technology in their networks.

This legislation has a strong history of bipartisan support in the Committee on Energy and Commerce and passed the full committee in April by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2037, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), a member of our committee.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member PALLONE for yielding the time.

I stand in strong support of H.R. 2037, the Open RAN Outreach Act. I am proud to introduce this bipartisan Open RAN Outreach Act with Representative RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. I am grateful that the full House is considering this bill.

Today's bill is an example of what bipartisanship can look like on the Energy and Commerce Committee. The bill provides greater Federal support for small telecommunications companies in rural and disadvantaged communities to help these companies improve their networks and remove potentially insecure Chinese network hardware.

Specifically, this bill directs the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to provide outreach and technical assistance to small