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 multivendor 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 multivendor 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

communications network providers about the benefits of transitioning to Open Radio Access Networks, or Open RAN or ORAN technologies.

It is imperative that telecommunications providers of all sizes are aware of and have access to cutting-edge technologies. It is also the case that this bill promotes U.S. technological innovations and competitiveness and, most importantly, our national security.

While I am proud to be a part of this effort, I would be remiss in not highlighting that programs like the wireless supply chain innovation grant program may be negatively affected by reconciliation decisions made by the administration.

This is a pivotal step toward strengthening our Nation's telecommunications infrastructure. By providing technical assistance and outreach to small telecommunications providers, especially in rural areas, this bill opens the door to a more secure, diverse, and competitive wireless network landscape.

The shift to Open RAN technology not only enhances national security by reducing reliance on foreign-made equipment but also boosts American manufacturing and fosters innovation in 5G and 6G.

The bill ensures that rural communities are no longer left behind in the race for cutting-edge technology, driving down costs and empowering smaller carriers to build stronger, more resilient networks.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to pass the Open RAN Outreach Act.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2037, the Open RAN Outreach Act.

Open RAN, or Open Radio Access Network, technology is a wireless network architecture that has the potential to drive 5G and 6G innovation forward. Like any new technology, we are just beginning to broadly deploy it, as there is still much to learn about its potential. This is especially true for smaller communications providers who must be prudent about their resources and refrain from taking unnecessary risks in introducing new technology into their networks.

We know Open RAN can both help introduce competition into a market that is currently dominated by untrusted equipment makers, like Huawei, and support the development of new trusted manufacturers, including those in the United States.

This bill helps bridge a gap by providing small communications providers with the support they need to determine whether Open RAN is an appropriate network solution for them. Under this bill, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information will be required to engage in outreach and provide technical assistance to small communications providers concerning the uses, benefits, and challenges of Open RAN and other open network architectures.

This bill would also require the Assistant Secretary to provide guidance to small carriers about their participation in the agency's Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund.

Sadly, with the passage of the one big, ugly bill, the need for this guidance is significantly diminished, as congressional Republicans inexplicably gutted this program by withdrawing $850 million in funding. It is deeply disappointing that congressional Republicans would rather use this money to give tax cuts to billionaires than develop creative solutions to protect our wireless networks from foreign adversaries seeking to harm our Nation.

Nevertheless, I commend Representatives CARTER and HUDSON for their bipartisan work on this bill. This is a good bill, as it ensures that our country's small communications providers have the necessary tools to make informed decisions about the need for new technology in their networks.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I also urge Members of the House to support this legislation.

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

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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. 2037, 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.

COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1717) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1717

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 ''Communications Security Act''.

SEC. 2. COUNCIL ON COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY, RELIABILITY, AND INTEROPERABILITY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall—

(1) establish a council to advise the Commission on issues including the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks; or

(2) designate for purposes of this section an advisory committee of the Commission that is operating on the date of the enactment of this Act under a charter for the purpose of addressing the issues described in paragraph (1) and, if the membership of such committee does not comply with subsection (b), modify such membership to comply with such subsection.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The members of the council shall be appointed by the Chair.

(2) COMPOSITION.—To the extent practicable, the membership of the council shall be composed of the following:

(A) Representatives of companies in the communications industry, except companies that are determined by the Chair to be not trusted.

(B) Representatives of public interest organizations or academic institutions, except public interest organizations or academic institutions that are determined by the Chair to be not trusted.

(C) Representatives of the Federal Government, State governments, local governments, or Tribal Governments, with at least one member representing each such type of government.

(3) KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.—Each member of the council shall have knowledge and experience relevant to the purpose and goals of the council.

(4) TERMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the council shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, except as provided in subparagraph (B).

(B) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. A member may serve after the expiration of that member's term until a successor has taken office.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the council is established or designated (as the case may be) under subsection (a), and every 2 years thereafter, the council shall submit to the Chair each report adopted by the council during the preceding 2-year period, and any report adopted by any working group of the council during such period, including any such report of the council or a working group containing recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and on other relevant issues as appropriate.

(2) AVAILABILITY ON COMMISSION WEBSITE.—The Commission shall make each report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the website of the Commission.

(d) DURATION.—Section 1013(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code (relating to the termination of advisory committees) shall not apply to the council.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHAIR.—The term ''Chair'' means the Chair of the Commission.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Communications Commission.

(3) COUNCIL.—The term ''council'' means the council established under subsection (a)(1) or the advisory committee designated under subsection (a)(2), as the case may be.

(4) NOT TRUSTED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''not trusted'' means, with respect to an entity, that—

(i) the Chair has made a public determination that such entity is owned by, controlled