

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.

□ 1550

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

by, or subject to the influence of a foreign adversary; or

(ii) the Chair otherwise determines that such entity poses a threat to the national security of the United States.

(B) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Chair shall use the criteria described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 2(c) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601(c)), as appropriate.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

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 insert 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. 1717, the Communications Security Act, led by the gentleman from Pennsylvania's 13th District and the gentleman from New Jersey's Eighth District.

The bill strengthens the cybersecurity of critical telecommunications infrastructure by permanently establishing a Federal Communications Commission advisory council to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communication networks.

The FCC established the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council, or CSRIC, to provide recommendations to the Commission regarding best practices and actions the Commission can take to ensure optimal security, reliability, and operability of commercial and public safety communications.

A hallmark of the body has been the collaboration between the representatives of private industry, government, and other stakeholders in a forum that facilitates information sharing and the advancement of important issues.

Last fall, we saw one of the most significant attacks on our Nation's communications networks in the Salt Typhoon, which is publicly reported to have been carried out by Communist China.

Against that backdrop, it is critical that we continue efforts to strengthen existing government partnerships with the communications technology industry. This legislation would accomplish that goal by making CSRIC a permanent advisory council to the FCC.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, 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 strong support of H.R. 1717, the Communications Security Act.

Our Nation's communications networks play an important role across many aspects of our daily lives. We are more connected than ever before, and it is vital that we do all we can to protect this critical infrastructure and ensure it is reliable and available to all Americans.

The Federal Communications Commission's Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council, or CSRIC, is meant to do just that. It is made up of government leaders at the Federal, State, and local levels and thought leaders from industry and public interest organizations. The Council provides the FCC with recommendations on the best practices and actions the agency could take so that our communications networks are secure, reliable, and compatible with each other.

CSRIC has been in existence since 2009 and was rechartered in 2024 under the Biden administration and former FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel for another 2 years. It has served the FCC well by operating in a collaborative manner with representatives from private industry, government, and other key stakeholders. The Council is also now co-chaired by a representative from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to help foster collaboration between our Nation's leading cybersecurity experts across the government.

However, given the important objectives of CSRIC, we should not leave it to the FCC's discretion on whether to recharter this Council or not every 2 years. Instead, CSRIC must become a permanent fixture at the FCC.

H.R. 1717 requires the FCC to do just that. Under this bill, the FCC would be required to establish a permanent council to advise the agency on the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks within 90 days. This Council would include representatives from trusted communications companies, public interest organizations, and academic institutions, as well as Federal, State, local, and Tribal Governments for a term of 2 years.

This bill also requires the Council and its working groups to submit reports offering their recommendations to the chair of the FCC every 2 years. In turn, the FCC must make these reports publicly available on its website.

I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for their bipartisan leadership on this bill. It is an important step in protecting our communications networks from bad actors and foreign adversaries.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1717, the Communications Security Act.

One of the many vital functions that the Federal Communications Commission serves is ensuring that our Nation's communications systems are prepared to deal with cybersecurity threats and natural disasters.

We know that threats to critical infrastructure that put our communities in harm's way are on the rise, and we need expert collaboration at the FCC to ensure that our communications networks remain reliable when we need them the most.

Countless tragic and heartbreaking incidents have highlighted the urgent need to bolster these networks, from the recent flooding in Texas, to Hurricane Helene last year, to Superstorm Sandy that devastated my home State of New Jersey in 2012.

In these moments, our ability to communicate with one another and with emergency responders is vital. That is why the FCC should have a permanent advisory council that can provide recommendations regarding both the rapid restoration of communications services in the event of widespread or major network disruptions and the steps communications providers can take to help secure these networks and everyone who relies on them.

My bill would codify the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council, or CSRIC, which focuses on improving next-generation 911, emergency preparedness, network security, resiliency, and interoperability.

Time and again, CSRIC has improved the reliability, availability, and performance of our communications networks during natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and cybersecurity attacks. It is common sense that we should make this council permanent.

The bill specifies that CSRIC must include representatives from a wide range of stakeholders from the communications industry, academia, the public-interest sector, and State, local, and Tribal Governments, ensuring that everyone is at the table to help keep our communities safe and secure.

In a time when oversight is key, this bill would require biennial reporting to the FCC, Congress, and the public, with recommendations on future improvements and updates to keep all of us and the American public informed.

I thank my colleague and good friend from the great State of New Jersey, Ranking Member PALLONE, for helping move this bill forward. I also thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for joining me in this bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

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 unanimous support for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support of this legislation because, as I have said, we have been working on many of these areas in the Energy and Commerce Committee. Again, I would ask for a “yea” vote on the legislation, and 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. 1717.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1600

PROMOTING UNITED STATES WIRELESS LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1765) to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in communications standards-setting bodies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1765

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 “Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. REPRESENTATION AND LEADERSHIP OF UNITED STATES IN COMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in standards-setting bodies that set standards for 5G networks and for future generations of wireless communications networks, the Assistant Secretary shall, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of State—

(1) equitably encourage participation by companies and a wide variety of relevant stakeholders, but not including any company or relevant stakeholder that the Assistant Secretary has determined to be not trusted, (to the extent such standards-setting bodies allow such stakeholders to participate) in such standards-setting bodies; and

(2) equitably offer technical expertise to companies and a wide variety of relevant stakeholders, but not including any company or relevant stakeholder that the Assistant Secretary has determined to be not trusted, (to the extent such standards-setting bodies allow such stakeholders to participate) to facilitate such participation.

(b) STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.—The standards-setting bodies referred to in subsection (a) include—

(1) the International Organization for Standardization;

(2) the voluntary standards-setting bodies that develop protocols for wireless devices and other equipment, such as the 3GPP and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; and

(3) any standards-setting body accredited by the American National Standards Institute or Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall brief the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Foreign Relations of the Senate on a strategy to carry out subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 3GPP.—The term “3GPP” means the 3rd Generation Partnership Project.

(2) 5G NETWORK.—The term “5G network” means a fifth-generation mobile network as described by 3GPP Release 15 or higher.

(3) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(4) CLOUD COMPUTING.—The term “cloud computing” has the meaning given the term in Special Publication 800-145 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, entitled “The NIST Definition of Cloud Computing”, published in September 2011, or any successor publication.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.—The term “communications network” means any of the following:

(A) A system enabling the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user’s choosing.

(B) Cloud computing resources.

(C) A network or system used to access cloud computing resources.

(6) NOT TRUSTED.—The term “not trusted” means, with respect to a company or stakeholder, that the company or stakeholder is determined by the Assistant Secretary to pose a threat to the national security of the United States. In making such a determination, the Assistant Secretary shall rely solely on one or more of the following determinations:

(A) A specific determination made by any executive branch interagency body with appropriate national security expertise, including the Federal Acquisition Security Council established under section 1322(a) of title 41, United States Code.

(B) A specific determination made by the Department of Commerce pursuant to Executive Order No. 13873 (84 Fed. Reg. 22689; relating to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain).

(C) Whether a company or stakeholder produces or provides covered telecommunications equipment or services, as defined in section 889(f)(3) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232; 132 Stat. 1918).

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 in-

clude 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. 1765, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act, sponsored by the gentleman from New Jersey’s Seventh District, the gentlewoman from Michigan’s Sixth District, and the gentlewoman from New York’s Ninth District.

For decades, the United States has led the development of next-generation wireless technology. To maintain our technological leadership and defend against our foreign adversaries, we must continue our leadership in standards development, including our participation in global, industry-led standards bodies.

Without participation by U.S. agencies and companies, we allow our adversaries to pursue their own economic and national security interests unchecked and the opportunity to lead in the development of standards for the next generation of wireless technology.

Already, we are hearing about the Chinese Communist Party’s efforts to dominate the upcoming 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference.

I again thank the Representatives from New Jersey’s Seventh District, Michigan’s Sixth District, Michigan’s Fifth District, and New York’s Ninth District for their leadership on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1765, 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. 1765, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act. This legislation is an important step toward ensuring that the Nation and global bodies crafting standards for next-generation wireless technologies, such as 6G and Wi-Fi 8, include significant representation from trusted American companies and those from allied countries, as well.

H.R. 1765 accomplishes this objective by requiring the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to encourage and facilitate the participation of trusted companies and stakeholders in the domestic and international standards-setting bodies for wireless technologies.

The Assistant Secretary must also brief Congress within 60 days of the bill becoming law on the strategy to accomplish these objectives.

It is crucial, Mr. Speaker, that American and allied interests are well-represented at these standards-setting bodies. If the United States is not a leader in shaping the wireless future, our adversaries will step in to fill the leadership void. This includes dominating the future 6G marketplace in a