

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
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**Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman**  
**Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Hearing on “Oversight of FCC Budget and Management”**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
**September 19, 2014**

This Subcommittee has spent a substantial amount of time focused on the operations and processes of the Federal Communications Commission. I support oversight of the FCC, which is a small but critical agency charged with overseeing industries that make up nearly one fifth of our national economy. What we are learning is that the FCC is making significant progress in improving its operations and eliminating backlogs.

Under former Chairman Genachowski and current Chairman Wheeler, the FCC has taken strides to improve transparency and efficiency in decision-making. Within the past six months alone, the agency has closed over 640 dormant proceedings and doubled the total number of media license applications resolved in all of 2013. The Commission is also working hard to reduce the number of backlog across all of its bureaus and offices. And although contentious issues often grab headlines, the vast majority of decisions made by the Chairman and Commissioners are bipartisan and unanimous.

Chairman Wheeler came into office at the end of last year and immediately took action to build on the momentum for process reform. On his first day in office, Chairman Wheeler appointed a senior advisor to examine FCC process reform and issue recommendations for agency action. One of our witnesses today, Mr. Wilkins, will be able to tell us about the progress that is being made to implement those recommendations, as well as the barriers preventing the agency from making process improvements.

Process reform is moving forward at the same time the FCC is implementing a significant new law and overhauling numerous programs for the broadband era. Congress has tasked the FCC with conducting the world’s first ever incentive spectrum auction. This is a complex task with many competing priorities that will impact competition and innovation for years to come. The FCC has also adopted reforms to all four of the Universal Service Fund programs, most recently in the E-Rate program. These reforms will enhance support for connectivity and capacity to schools and libraries across the nation. And an unprecedented number of Americans have filed comments with the agency about the proposed Open Internet rules. Despite the difficult budgetary climate, the dedicated and talented public servants at the FCC are ensuring the agency’s mission is being fulfilled.

Today we will also hear from the FCC's Office of Inspector General. Inspectors General were created by Congress to protect the integrity of agencies and programs funded with public resources. I look forward to learning about the significant accomplishments of the Inspector General in combatting waste, fraud and abuse. I take seriously the concerns that the IG has raised and want to learn more about them.