

common sense, it is a lifesaving measure.

Every American deserves access to emergency assistance, regardless of where they live, period.

This bill is very narrow in scope. The rules required by the bill would only enable emergency connectivity service providers to connect to individuals' phones where there is no cellular service, either due to an outage or because there is not a mobile carrier providing service in that area.

To many of us, it is frustrating if we lose cell service temporarily. It is unfathomable for many to understand that in 2023 there remains remote areas in America that still lack reliable cellular service.

Now that there is technology that will enable distressed Ohioans in rural Appalachia, and all such rural areas across the United States who lack mobile cell service to reach emergency assistance, I believe we have a responsibility to make it happen and to ensure American innovation can serve our communities that are otherwise left out.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative KIM SCHRIER for co-leading this legislation and her work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I also urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1353 to ensure everyone has access to critical lifesaving emergency services regardless of where they live or travel.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Mr. PALLONE, the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee for his support as well.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill that was reported out of our committee unanimously last month, and I would ask everyone to support the legislation.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support of H.R. 1353, 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. 1353, as amended.

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.

INSTITUTE FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SCIENCES CODIFICATION ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1343) to codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Infor-

mation 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. 1343

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-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980.

"(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) As authorized 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(1)).

"(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 insert extraneous materials 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. 1343, the ITS Codification Act, led by the gentleman from Georgia's First District and the gentlewoman from Colorado's Seventh District.

The effective and efficient management of our airwaves plays an important role in fueling our economy, which increasingly relies on communication between digital technologies.

As demand for wireless technology continues to grow, we must continue to focus on identifying potential opportunities to make more spectrum available for commercial use, including reallocating and sharing spectrum from Federal users.

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

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Indeed, having a sound technical basis supporting these decisions will help restore trust in the process among Federal agencies.

The Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, or ITS, within NTIA plays an essential role in conducting the tests that guide these 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, and advancing scientific discovery and other successful Federal missions.

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

The ITS Codification Act will strengthen the statutory authority for ITS and ensure the work they do to advance United States technological leadership remains a key part of our approach.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the 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 support of H.R. 1343, the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, or ITS, Codification Act.

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

Administration. 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. 1343 recognizes the numerous contributions of ITS by providing it with additional statutory authority. Under this legislation, ITS will serve as the primary laboratory for the executive branch of the Federal Government. It will be charged with studying the use of innovative sharing technologies for our airwaves and improving the interference tolerance of Federal systems operating with, or using, Federal spectrum.

The legislation also will allow the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, acting through the head of the 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 communication and tracking technologies. These technologies will then be used to locate people trapped in areas where mobile connectivity may not be available due to natural disasters and other devastating events.

I commend Representatives PETERSEN 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 work but also expand its activities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, which unanimously passed the Energy and Commerce Committee last month, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), who is the bill's sponsor and the vice chairman of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1343, the ITS Codification Act.

This legislation would codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, 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, 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. I am confident ITS will continue to contribute to innovative advancements that are crucial for 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 reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill that, as I mentioned, unanimously passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee last month. It is important.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I also urge support of H.R. 1343 and passage by the House, 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. 1343.

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.

PRECISION AGRICULTURE SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1339) to require the Federal Communications Commission to review certain rules of the Commission and develop recommendations for rule changes to promote precision agriculture, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1339

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 "Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act".

SEC. 2. PRECISION AGRICULTURE SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY.

(a) REVIEW.—The Commission, in consultation with the Task Force, shall—

(1) review the rules of the Commission relating to fixed satellite service, mobile satellite service, and earth exploration satellite service to determine if there are rule changes that the Commission could implement under existing authority to promote precision agriculture; and