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THE INTERNET & TELEVISION ASSOCIATION

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Hudson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Doris Matsui
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

Re: Hearing on U.S. Leadership at the World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 (WRC-27): Strategy and Challenges Ahead of Shanghai

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Subcommittee Chair Hudson, Subcommittee Ranking Member Matsui and Members of the Subcommittee:

Decisions made at the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) shape the global market for a wide range of communications technologies, from satellite services to Wi-Fi to commercial mobile services. Ensuring that the marketplace remains flexible and open to innovation will require a whole-of-government approach, as well as consistent engagement with both industry and our international partners.

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A well-coordinated campaign to promote U.S. priorities has never been more important. During the next year and a half, the United States will prepare for WRC-27, set to take place in Shanghai in October-November of 2027, against a backdrop of heightened global competition for technological leadership. Other nations, particularly the People's Republic of China and their subsidiary Huawei, are investing significantly in attempts to dominate international standards, proliferate untrustworthy technologies, and lock U.S. companies out of key international markets. Sustained and robust U.S. engagement will help ensure that international spectrum policies reflect principles of open markets, free speech, technical rigor, and innovation-driven growth—not authoritarian values. We are encouraged that United States' preparations for WRC-27 are already underway through the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) World Radiocommunication Conference Advisory Committee (WAC) process and interagency coordination led by the FCC, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and the Department of State. We also appreciate the engagement from the leaders of this Committee with their letter on March 9th and the hearing being held today.

In support of that engagement, NCTA recommends that Congress and the Administration (1) prioritize WRC-27 advocacy that reinforces U.S. technological leadership and captures all aspects of our telecommunications marketplace, (2) invest in robust public- and private-sector participation in the WRC-27 preparation process, and (3) work to ensure the conditions necessary for full and secure stakeholder participation in Shanghai.

First, Congress and the Administration should prioritize efforts that maximize our nation's leadership and competitive advantage. Unlicensed technologies are one important example. For decades, Americans have benefited from a spectrum policy framework that encourages innovation, promotes investment, and supports an "all of the above" wireless ecosystem. That environment has helped make shared and unlicensed spectrum critical economic drivers and consistent sources of U.S. wireless leadership. Much of the technology ecosystem supporting Wi-Fi and related platforms—including chipsets, networking equipment, software, and services—has been developed by American companies and continues to support high-skilled jobs, research, and manufacturing in the United States. Wi-Fi, in turn, supports a large and growing U.S. innovation ecosystem that drives investment, high-skilled employment, and global leadership in networking equipment, semiconductor design, and connectivity services. All that and it is loved by consumers. As NTIA Administrator Arielle Roth put it,

"American companies lead the world in unlicensed device technologies using the 6 GHz band. No one does it better, and the world knows it." The United States has made clear that it is firmly committed to Wi-Fi operations across the entire 6 GHz band and it is not revisiting this decision. NCTA encourages the U.S. delegation to rally nations around the world to resist pressure from China, adopt 6 GHz Wi-Fi, and share in the immediate innovation and economic benefits of 6 GHz.

Second, NCTA recommends that Administration leaders promote sustained participation by U.S. government and private-sector experts to ensure that the conference's decisions are informed by the experience of the world's most dynamic communications ecosystem. NCTA recognizes that WRC preparation is a multi-year process that, when done right, requires significant investments of time and resources. Making that long-term commitment may be particularly challenging when Congress, under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, has also charged the FCC and NTIA with strict timeline benchmarks for allocating our nations spectrum airwaves.

Third, NCTA urges the Administration to help remove obstacles to broad public- and private-sector participation in Shanghai. The U.S. approach is strengthened by our nation's commitment to a transparent, collaborative partnership between the public and private sectors. Alongside government experts, participation by American private-sector leaders has consistently advanced technically sound and forward-looking proposals that reflect the cutting edge of technology. Industry partners also help government negotiators fully understand the commercial consequences of each proposal and serve as force multipliers in formal negotiations and informal engagements around the world. A significant American presence at preparatory events and on the ground at WRC-27 is essential.

Without careful planning, the location of the conference in Shanghai could deter some stakeholders from undertaking this important work. Potential participants have raised concerns about data security, safety, privacy, and rule-of-law protections. The U.S. government can promote participation by encouraging the International Telecommunication Union to ensure the host country offers protections and conditions consistent with international norms. These should include guarantees of timely entry and exit for registered delegates; access to consular services; secure communications capabilities at the conference site, including reliable encrypted Wi-Fi connectivity; appropriate privacy safeguards in meeting spaces and lodgings;

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and assurances that all registered participants may freely conduct official conference business consistent with the rules of the conference.

In short, maintaining leadership at WRC-27 will help ensure that international spectrum frameworks continue to support innovation, investment, and the development of advanced communications technologies that benefit consumers and businesses both domestically and around the world.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue and for holding such an important hearing regarding America's continued emphasis of our technologies and innovation on the global stage. Our nation faces a critical moment in Shanghai in 2027. Your attention to the upcoming conference will help further drive key stakeholder involvement in the process, helping the U.S. meet this pivotal moment in the global competition for technology leadership.

Respectfully,



Hon. Cory Gardner
President and CEO
NCTA – The Internet & Television Association

Cc: The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce