the State's history, with a record of more than 4 million acres burned and more than 8,100 fires across the State. Nearly every part of the great State of California has been touched by wildfires this season. These events demonstrate that we must improve the reliability of emergency alerts.

As we continue to battle COVID–19, this year's wildfire season has also presented unprecedented challenges for firefighters, emergency managers, and the public, particularly when it comes to evacuations. This makes it even more crucial that we have emergency alerting systems in place that are both robust and reliable.

This legislation will improve the current wireless emergency alerting system, and emergency alerting systems more broadly, so that my constituents and Americans across the country can count on receiving these alerts when faced with emergencies, including wildfires.

H.R. 6096 will ensure that more people receive critical emergency alerts on their mobile devices, televisions, and radios, and will pave the way for examining the feasibility of issuing alerts through online audio and video streaming services.

Additionally, this legislation will help States improve their plans for emergency alerting, and it will establish a reporting system for false alerts.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues, including Representative BILIRAKIS, Mr. OLSON, and Ms. GABBARD, for working with me on the READI Act, as well as Senators SCHATZ and THUNE for their leadership on this legislation in the Senate.

Madam Speaker, I also thank Chairman PALLONE and Ranking Member WALDEN, and Chairman DOYLE and Ranking Member LATTA, for their working with me to move this legislation through the committee.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 6096.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a State that has dealt with a lot of disasters over the years and will in the future, to talk about this important legislation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the time very much.

This legislation builds upon the IPAWS Modernization Act, which I authored and which became law in 2016.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), the chairman of the committee, and the ranking member. It has been a great pleasure to serve with all of them on this committee, and I want to continue to serve on this committee. It is the best committee in Congress, as far as I am concerned, the original committee.

That bill enhanced the Nation's emergency alert texting system and implemented training programs for States. I am talking about the IPAWS Modernization Act, Madam Speaker.

The READI Act builds upon our prior efforts and will ensure more people receive critical emergency alerts on their mobile phones, televisions, and radios.

It really works well, Madam Speaker. I am from the great State of Florida, and we had hurricane warnings for the last couple of weeks for Eta. I was on the other coast, the east coast, even though I represent the west coast, visiting friends on the east coast, and I got the alert on the east coast even though the threat was on the west coast. So, you know, you have to have planning. And it really works very well. It saves so many lives.

It also paves the way for examining the feasibility of issuing alerts through online streaming services, an ever-popular platform, I understand.

Even more importantly, this bill will help States improve emergency alert plans and establish reporting systems for false alerts.

I am pleased that this potentially lifesaving legislation has come to a floor vote. The effectiveness and accuracy of information during an emergency should always be a top priority, and it is.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I don't believe I have any other speakers on our side of the aisle on this legislation, so I would urge its passage.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I ask my colleagues to support 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6096, 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.

UTILIZING STRATEGIC ALLIED TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2020

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6624) to support supply chain innovation and multilateral security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6624

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 ''Utilizing Strategic Allied Telecommunications Act of 2020'' or the ''USA Telecommunications Act''.

SEC. 2. WIRELESS SUPPLY CHAIN INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available under subsection (d), the Assistant Secretary shall, beginning not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, make grants on a competitive basis to support the deployment and use of Open RAN 5G Networks throughout the United States by—

(1) promoting the use of technology, including software, hardware, and microprocessing technology, that will enhance competitiveness in the supply chains of Open RAN 5G Networks;

(2) accelerating the deployment of Open Network Equipment;

(3) promoting the use of Open Network Equipment;

(4) establishing objective criteria that can be used to determine if equipment meets the definition of Open Network Equipment;

(5) promoting the inclusion of security features that enhance the integrity and availability of Open Network Equipment; or

(6) promoting the application of network function virtualization to facilitate the deployment of Open RAN 5G Networks and a more diverse vendor market.

(b) GRANT CRITERIA.—The Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Commission, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (commonly known as ''DARPA''), and the Director of the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (commonly known as ''IARPA''), shall establish the criteria under which the Assistant Secretary shall award a grant under subsection (a).

(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT ON GRANTS MADE.—For each fiscal year for which amounts are available to make grants under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that includes, with respect to that fiscal year—

(A) a description of—

(i) to whom grants under subsection (a) were made, the amount thereof, and criteria used to award such grants; and

(ii) the progress the Assistant Secretary has made in meeting the objectives described in subsection (a) of the grant program under this section; and

(B) any additional information that the Assistant Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) REPORT ON 5G NETWORK SUPPLY CHAIN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a written report—

(A) that includes recommendations on promoting the competitiveness and sustainability of trusted Open RAN 5G Networks; and

(B) identifying whether any additional authorities are needed by the Assistant Secretary to facilitate the timely adoption of Open Network Equipment, including the authority to provide loans, loan guarantees, and other forms of credit extension that would maximize the use of grant amounts awarded under this section.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AMOUNT AUTHORIZED.—There is authorized to be appropriated to make grants under subsection (a) $750,000,000 for fiscal years 2021 through 2031.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) shall remain available through fiscal year 2031.

SEC. 3. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Assistant Secretary shall establish an Advisory Committee to advise the Assistant Secretary in the manner described in subsection (c).

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Advisory Committee established under subsection (a) shall be composed of—

(1) representatives from—

(A) the Commission;

(B) the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (commonly known as ''DARPA'');

(C) the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (commonly known as ''IARPA'');

(D) the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(E) the Department of State;

(F) the National Science Foundation; and

(G) the Department of Homeland Security; and

(2) other representatives from the private and public sectors, at the discretion of the Assistant Secretary.

(c) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee established under subsection (a) shall be used to advise the Assistant Secretary on technology developments to help inform—

(1) the strategic direction of the grant program established under section 2; and

(2) efforts of the Federal Government to promote a more secure, diverse, sustainable, and competitive supply chain for Open RAN 5G Networks.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 3GPP.—The term ''3GPP'' means the Third Generation Partnership Project.

(2) 5G NETWORK.—The term ''5G network'' means a radio network as described by 3GPP Release 15 or higher, or any successor network.

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

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

(5) OPEN NETWORK EQUIPMENT.—The term ''Open Network Equipment'' means equipment that follows a set of open standards (such as O–RAN standards or the Open Radio Access Network approach to standardization, adopted by the O–RAN Alliance, 3GPP, or other organization) and open interfaces for multi-vendor network equipment interoperability, such that the equipment may be integrated into the Radio Access Networks of an Open RAN 5G Network.

(6) OPEN RAN 5G NETWORK.—The term ''Open RAN 5G Network'' means a 5G network that follows a set of open standards (such as O–RAN standards or the Open Radio Access Network approach to standardization, adopted by the O–RAN Alliance, 3GPP, or other organizations) and open interfaces for multi-vendor network equipment interoperability.

(7) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''relevant committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(G) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(H) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(I) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(J) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam 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 on H.R. 6624.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6624, the USA Telecommunications Act.

Earlier this year, the House passed, and the President signed, my Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act to create a program to fund the replacement of suspect network equipment. Suspect equipment, including that produced by Huawei and ZTE, could allow foreign adversaries to surveil Americans at home or, worse, disrupt our communications systems.

While we are still pushing for Congress to appropriate funds to that end, it is important to recognize that my legislation was only half the battle, even when it is funded. We also need to create and foster competition for trusted network equipment that uses open interfaces so that the United States is not beholden to a market for network equipment that is becoming less competitive.

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This bill before us today, the Utilizing Strategic Allied Telecommunications Act, or the USA Telecommunications Act, does just that.

The bipartisan legislation creates a grant program and authorizes $750 million in funding for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to help promote and deploy Open Radio Access Network technologies that can spur that type of competition. We must support alternatives to companies like Huawei and ZTE, Madam Speaker.

Today, most network equipment is produced by a handful of companies that provide a soup-to-nuts solution, locking our networks into one single vendor at a time. That makes it hard for new competitors to break into the market.

Currently, there are no American vendors for the network equipment that fuels our wireless economy. However, this legislation would authorize the funding of grants to support the promotion and deployment of Open Radio Access Network equipment.

By using standardized open interfaces, this type of equipment will allow network operators in the U.S. to piece together wireless networks that are both secure and make sense for them. And because of that, many American companies will be able to work directly with our network providers, hopefully spurring a domestic market for network equipment, and that is something we desperately need.

For all of these reasons, I want to thank Representatives GUTHRIE and MATSUI and Ranking Member WALDEN for joining me in leading this bipartisan, bicameral bill. I also want to thank the Senate sponsors, led by Senator WARNER of Virginia.

This legislation is critical for our strategic national interest, and I urge all Members to support it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to urge passage of H.R. 6624, the USA Telecommunications Act. This bill will help put the United States at the helm of network security, ensuring that communications providers have a secure, diverse, and competitive marketplace of trusted equipment suppliers for their next-generation networks.

Until now, most network providers have relied on a small set of trusted suppliers to build their networks. While these suppliers have done a tremendous job, they face increased pressure from untrusted Chinese suppliers who are handpicked and encouraged by the Chinese Communist Party to significantly undercut the network equipment marketplace by offering nearly free equipment.

As a result of this unfair competition, trusted suppliers have increasingly relied upon proprietary soup-to-nuts offerings to survive. But under the soup-to-nuts model, once a network provider selects a vendor, the provider must use the same vendor for all of the hardware and software across its network.

Well, this model is simply not sustainable, Madam Speaker. If we want the United States to continue to have access to trusted, affordable communications equipment that can withstand state-sponsored attempts to undermine our security, then we have to act.

This model results in an expensive and timely process to upgrade equipment and software for the next-generation 5G networks.

Furthermore, competing for a small set of contracts in a limited marketplace, while simultaneously trying to fight off untrusted state-sponsored vendors, has also resulted in significant losses to research, development, and innovation.

So Congress needs to act. We need to do all we can to ensure the United States supports capitalism and competition among trusted vendors. Today's bill will help us do just that.

The USA Telecommunications Act will promote and accelerate the deployment and use of open radio access technology by infusing the marketplace with a $750 million grant program. This hefty infusion should help

create a marketplace filled with a diverse array of vendors, large and small, who are aggressively researching and innovating.

Competition among open network solutions will reduce costs for network providers by creating a diverse marketplace of trusted suppliers and ensure that the same suppliers can withstand pressure from those who do not have our best interests in mind.

So this strong endorsement of open, interoperable, and standards-based equipment would help ensure the United States maintains its place as a global leader in wireless communications for 5G as well as future network generations.

I am very pleased to support this legislation which will help ensure the superiority of our wireless networks for generations to come. I urge a ''yes'' vote on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), one of the principal authors of this legislation.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 6624, the USA Telecommunications Act.

It is clear that China poses a significant threat to the security of the United States. Technology produced by Chinese companies threatens our supply chains and our telecommunications networks and those of our allies.

In March, President Trump signed into law legislation that was reported out of this committee to protect our communications networks against threats from foreign companies like Huawei and ZTE.

It is clear that America must have a competitive 5G marketplace. The solution isn't using government control like China, but using markets to our advantage so domestic and trusted foreign competitors to Huawei can thrive.

The USA Telecommunications Act would authorize up to $750 million for a grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, in consultation with the FCC and other Federal agencies, to promote and accelerate the deployment and use of open-interfaced, standards-based, and interoperable 5G networks throughout the United States.

Furthermore, 5G is going to be key to unlocking new opportunities for all Americans. With more people working and studying from home than ever before, promoting equipment and technology development like Open RAN technology can help to diversify our supply chains and keep our networks secure, especially as we expand 5G.

I was proud to introduce this piece of legislation with Chairman PALLONE, Ranking Member WALDEN, and Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, and I thank them for working with me to help protect our networks. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers on this legislation, so I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I also urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6624, the USA Telecommunications Act.

It has been a decade since I first raised how the vulnerabilities in our telecommunications infrastructure directly impact our national security. I first wrote to the FCC on November 2, 2010, expressing very grave concerns about Huawei and ZTE, companies that have opaque entanglements with the Chinese government. In the intervening decade, Huawei and ZTE equipment has proliferated across our country because it's cheap, due to the Chinese government subsidizing them.

As we build out 5G networks, we must protect our national security, especially from entities like Huawei and ZTE, and it's why I'm proud to cosponsor H.R. 6624, bipartisan and bicameral legislation that invests $750 million in Open Radio Access Networks, or Open RAN, and promotes the deployment of open network 5G equipment.

We hear a great deal and talk about 5G, but I don't think most people can tell you what 5G actually is. It's a set of protocols and standards agreed to in various multistakeholder forums. Unlike previous generations of wireless standards, 5G is primarily based on software independent of the physical telecommunications equipment which increases security.

Open RAN is a movement to create secure and open software standards for 5G that ensures that our communications are secure, no matter whose equipment the communications travel through. This is critical because even after we remove Huawei and ZTE-made cell sites from our country, we may still have their parts in our telecom ecosystem because they make parts used by most providers. We can never be 100 percent secure if we rely on insecure equipment. This is precisely why we need the software used by wireless equipment to be secure by design, and Open RAN does just that.

For these reasons, I urge colleagues to support H.R. 6624.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6624.

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.

SPECTRUM IT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2020

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7310) to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a plan for the modernization of the information technology systems of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7310

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 ''Spectrum IT Modernization Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. MODERNIZATION EFFORT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Assistant Secretary'' means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information;

(2) the term ''covered agency''—

(A) means any Federal entity that the Assistant Secretary determines is appropriate; and

(B) includes the Department of Defense;

(3) the term ''Federal entity'' has the meaning given the term in section 113(1) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 923(1));

(4) the term ''Federal spectrum'' means frequencies assigned on a primary basis to a covered agency;

(5) the term ''infrastructure'' means information technology systems and information technologies, tools, and databases; and

(6) the term ''NTIA'' means the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

(b) INITIAL INTERAGENCY SPECTRUM INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COORDINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Policy and Plans Steering Group, shall identify a process to establish goals, including parameters to measure the achievement of those goals, for the modernization of the infrastructure of covered agencies relating to managing the use of Federal spectrum by those agencies, which shall include—

(1) the standardization of data inputs, modeling algorithms, modeling and simulation processes, analysis tools with respect to Federal spectrum, assumptions, and any other tool to ensure interoperability and functionality with respect to that infrastructure;

(2) other potential innovative technological capabilities with respect to that infrastructure, including cloud-based databases, artificial intelligence technologies, automation, and improved modeling and simulation capabilities;

(3) ways to improve the management of covered agencies' use of Federal spectrum through that infrastructure, including by—

(A) increasing the efficiency of that infrastructure;

(B) addressing validation of usage with respect to that infrastructure;

(C) increasing the accuracy of that infrastructure;

(D) validating models used by that infrastructure; and

(E) monitoring and enforcing requirements that are imposed on covered agencies with respect to the use of Federal spectrum by covered agencies;

(4) ways to improve the ability of covered agencies to meet mission requirements in congested environments with respect to Federal spectrum, including as part of automated adjustments to operations based on changing conditions in those environments;

(5) the creation of a time-based automated mechanism—

(A) to share Federal spectrum between covered agencies to collaboratively and dynamically increase access to Federal spectrum by those agencies; and

(B) that could be scaled across Federal spectrum; and

(6) the collaboration between covered agencies necessary to ensure the interoperability of Federal spectrum.