

OPEN RAN OUTREACH ACT

JULY 2, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GUTHRIE, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2037]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2037) to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Open RAN Outreach Act”.

SEC. 2. OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL PROVIDERS REGARDING OPEN RAN NETWORKS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Assistant Secretary shall conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to small communications network providers—

- (1) to raise awareness regarding the uses, benefits, and challenges of Open RAN networks and other open network architectures; and
- (2) regarding participation in the Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program established under section 9202(a)(1) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283).

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, acting through the head of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth.

(2) **OPEN NETWORK ARCHITECTURE.**—The term “open network architecture” means Open RAN networks and other network elements that follow a set of published open standards for multi-vendor network equipment interoperability, including open core and open transport.

(3) **OPEN RAN NETWORK.**—The term “Open RAN network” means a wireless network that follows the Open Radio Access Network architecture and published open standards for multi-vendor network equipment interoperability.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 2037, the Open RAN Outreach Act, was introduced on March 11, 2025, by Representative Troy Carter (D–LA). The bill directs the Assistant Secretary of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to provide outreach and technical assistance to small communications network providers regarding the use, benefits and challenges of Open Radio Access Networks (Open RAN) technologies.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

United States communications service providers rely heavily on equipment and services manufactured and provided by foreign companies. The increasingly globalized market for telecommunications equipment and services has increased competition and opened the door to cheaper goods for consumers but poses new challenges for the United States, particularly for ensuring the security of the telecommunications supply chain.

To support the development of a competitive market for trusted, secure network equipment, a growing movement has focused on Open RAN network architecture, which relies primarily on open-sourced standards and software to operate wireless communications networks. Open RAN architecture will potentially allow a network operator to choose network components from various vendors, rather than relying on one vendor for its entire network, spurring the development of a competitive marketplace for secure equipment.

While this architecture and related technologies may bring advantages to communications network providers and the communications supply chain, it could also pose challenges to smaller communications providers without the resources to integrate several different kinds of vendors and equipment to create an end-to-end network. Directing the NTIA to provide this assistance to small providers will make it more likely that small providers can make informed decisions about adopting this network architecture.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The Committee on Energy and Commerce held a hearing in the development of the legislation during the 119th Congress. On January 23, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing. The title of the hearing was “Strengthening American Leadership in Wireless Technology.” The Subcommittee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Michael K. Powell, President & CEO, NCTA—The Internet & Television Association;
- Brad Gillen, Executive Vice President, CTIA—The Wireless Association;
- Diane Rinaldo, Executive Director, Open RAN Policy Coalition; and
- Chris Lewis, President & CEO, Public Knowledge.

On April 8, 2025, the full Committee on Energy and Commerce met in open markup session and ordered H.R. 2037 Open RAN Outreach Act, as amended, favorably reported to the House by a voice vote.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. There were no record votes taken in connection with ordering H.R. 2037 reported.

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee held hearings and made findings that are reflected in this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY,
AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 2037 would result in no new or increased budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII, at the time this report was filed, the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not available.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is to provide technical assistance to small communications providers regarding OpenRAN Network Equipment and open network architectures.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 2037 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

RELATED COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 2037:

On January 23, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing. The title of the hearing was “Strengthening American Leadership in Wireless Technology.” The Subcommittee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Michael K. Powell, President & CEO, NCTA—The Internet & Television Association;
- Brad Gillen, Executive Vice President, CTIA—The Wireless Association;
- Diane Rinaldo, Executive Director, Open RAN Policy Coalition; and
- Chris Lewis, President & CEO, Public Knowledge.

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. At the time this report was filed, the estimate was not available.

EARMARK, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 2037 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Sec. 1. Short title

Section 1 designates that the short title may be cited as the “Open RAN Outreach Act”.

Sec. 2. Outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks

Section 2 directs the Assistant Secretary to conduct outreach and technical assistance to small communications network providers,

(1) to raise awareness regarding the uses, benefits, and challenges of Open RAN networks and other open network architectures, and (2) regarding participation in the Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program established in the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

Sec. 3. Definitions

Section 3 defines three terms used in the legislation: Assistant Secretary, Open Network architecture, and Open RAN network.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

This legislation does not amend any existing Federal statute.

