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Floor Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce H.R. 3125, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act April 14, 2010

Madame Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3125, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act, which I introduced last year with Chairman Boucher, Ranking Members Barton and Stearns, and more than a dozen of my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

This timely, bipartisan legislation creates a process for the full inventory, mapping, and accounting of current spectrum use by federal and non-federal users. This measure will inject transparency into the way our government and the private sector utilizes this critical public resource. With the benefit of this inventory, we can make informed, rational, and deliberate decisions about how our spectrum is used in future decades to benefit the American people, American businesses, and American innovation.

It also creates a parallel process for a regular assessment of whether any spectrum should be reallocated or otherwise made available for shared access to improve the efficiency with which we utilize this precious resource.

I am pleased that the bill includes a strong national security section reflecting the result of extensive bipartisan consultation with the defense and intelligence communities. The bill we consider today strikes a proper balance between providing useful information to the public about the nature and use of spectrum while safeguarding national security, homeland security, and public safety interests.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan measure.

Thank you, Madame Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.