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[U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle](#) couldn't muster the support he needed last term to restore Obama-era net neutrality rules, but Congress is different now, and so is his position in it. Tuesday Mr. Doyle, D-Forest Hills, became chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

The chairmanship gives him control of a wide swath of the legislative agenda dealing with telecommunications, the broadcast industry, broadband spectrum issues, and technology research and development. "After eight years serving in the minority, I'm excited for the opportunity to set the committee's agenda on these issues rather than just playing defense," Mr. Doyle said. "I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues to promote policies that benefit consumers, small businesses and innovators, as well as to conduct effective oversight of the Trump administration." He also will serve as a senior member of the Energy Subcommittee.

The combination is perfect for someone representing Pittsburgh, a center of innovation for the energy and technology sectors, Mr. Doyle said in an interview. "We've got Marcellus gas under our feet, and when you think about all the tech companies, to be the chairman of the committee that oversees all of that puts me in a unique role," he said. "For somebody representing Pittsburgh, I sit on probably the two best subcommittees a person could be on relative to helping to move the economy."

Addressing net neutrality is one of his priorities, one he failed to accomplish last term when no Republicans would support the effort. Now his party controls the agenda, giving a fresh boost to his effort to prohibit internet service providers from blocking, speeding up or slowing web traffic based on content. That prohibition had been in effect during the Obama administration but the Federal Communications Commission overturned it last year, saying that it discouraged innovation and that the free market should guide the evolution of the internet. "The rules were implemented so internet service providers wouldn't block the content of their competitors or create faster lanes" for their business partners, Mr. Doyle said. "It's so the guy in the garage that comes up with the app that's going to change the world will have the same access to the internet as the company that's more established."

His other priorities for the subcommittee include controlling the collection and use of digital data that companies collect through apps, social media platforms, geographic positioning devices, biotechnology services such as through 23andMe, wearable technology, and more. "Right now Fitbit is collecting information on whether you exercise or don't exercise. The question is who owns the data, and do they have the right to [share] that data," he said.

Part of his concern grew over revelations that Facebook had been harvesting user data and providing it to Cambridge Analytica, which used it to target pro-Trump political ads in the 2016 election. "Somebody's got to say what it is people can and can't do,"

Mr. Doyle said. Click-through terms-of-use agreements aren't enough, he said. "When you click on the 'I agree' button there's 16 pages of legal language behind that. I believe there should be language in the terms and conditions that is clear and concise," Mr. Doyle said.

The subcommittee also has jurisdiction over the FCC, an agency the new chairman has gone head-to-head with before. They clashed first over net-neutrality and later when Mr. Doyle filed a complaint about FCC Chairman Ajit Pai's participation in a conference, which the congressman believed violated a law prohibiting federal employees from using their offices to campaign for or against candidates. The Office of Special Counsel cleared Mr. Pai. – **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

Former Gov. John Kasich says he's joined CNN as a political commentator. The Ohio Republican is a frequent critic of President Donald Trump and a potential 2020 presidential contender. Kasich announced in a tweet on Tuesday that he will begin immediately as a regular contributor on the cable news network.

Kasich concluded eight years as governor on Sunday. The next day, Beverly Hills-based United Talent Agency announced they'd signed him as a new client. Since abandoning a 2016 presidential bid, Kasich has steadily criticized Trump and the Republican Party on cable and network news shows. The 66-year-old has worked with Democrats including then-Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and former Vice President Joe Biden on efforts to identify bipartisan policy solutions and to promote civility in politics. – **Reuters**

