

April 19, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chair  
The Honorable Roger F. Wicker, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Hart Senate Office Building 420 A  
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

As organizations focused on protecting the privacy of the American public, we express our strong support for the confirmation of Prof. Lina Khan as a commissioner for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Prof. Khan brings a critically important set of skills and knowledge that will ensure the FTC is best positioned to play a leadership role safeguarding U.S. consumers as they navigate the digital environment.

As you know, U.S. consumers face growing risks to their privacy, including data breaches, unfair methods of data collection, and the use of powerful—but little understood—technologies and techniques that continually monitor us online. Prof. Khan’s knowledge of the operations of the online marketplace, including the role of the leading platforms, will help the commission more efficiently identify and address threats to privacy. As a scholar and also a staff member for the House Antitrust Subcommittee, Prof. Khan has conducted a deep analysis of digital markets, including how the power of major online platforms can be used to further degrade privacy. She understands the links between market power and the lack of competition, and their combined impact on data practices, including those that adversely affect privacy. At the FTC, we expect Prof. Khan to play an especially critical role addressing how consumers can engage online without facing the loss of their personal information, or having their families’ data placed at risk. She will also play a crucial role helping the commission deal with the unique challenges faced by communities of color, who may face discriminatory and other harmful online practices.

Prof. Khan’s commitment to public service, her unbiased scholarship and commitment to fairness will serve both the FTC and the country well. We urge you and the committee to confirm her nomination.

Respectfully,

Asian Americans Advancing Justice  
Center for Digital Democracy  
Center for Science in the Public Interest

Color of Change  
Consumer Federation of America  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Electronic Privacy Information Center  
New America's Open Technology Institute  
Public Citizen  
U.S. PIRG