

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

CC: President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

CC: Mr. Ronald A. Klain
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

December 15, 2021

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

We are a diverse group of organizations and individuals representing Americans and small businesses that depend on open, fair, and competitive markets. We have been encouraged by the Biden administration's commitment to addressing the crisis of concentrated economic power in the economy. The monopoly power of the largest companies has grown to rival the power of democratic governments around the world.

Now, more than ever, it is important that the administration speak with a unified voice on the need to contain this threat to our markets and ultimately to the balance of power in democratic societies. The Biden administration has made clear that this a priority by advancing comprehensive policies and appointing leaders committed to competitive markets to the National Economic Council, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Department of Justice Antitrust Division among many others.

This is why we are particularly concerned by your recent comments calling to delay the European Union's Digital Markets and Digital Services Acts. In your comments you claimed that these laws will "disproportionately impact US-based tech firms." However, this legislation restricts only the anticompetitive behavior of the very largest monopolists. In fact, the innovative small businesses that are the lifeblood of the American technology sector stand to gain from laws like these which level the playing field. Moreover, the legislation targets the largest European tech companies as well, so there is no reason to believe it favors European over US markets. Ultimately the legislation is designed to protect competition and opposing its passage will only entrench monopoly power further.

We strongly encourage you to reconsider your comments. The United States economy depends on vibrant competition to ensure that small businesses, workers, and consumers are not abused by dominant corporations. Opposing regulation of these monopolies at home or abroad does not serve

the people or economy of the United States, it merely protects the power and profits of a small handful of companies.

In addition to disrupting important legislation from our international partners, comments like these undermine the administration's broader domestic goals. The Biden administration has dedicated itself to a "whole-of-government effort to promote competition in the American economy" in the July 2021 Executive Order. These recent comments are fundamentally incongruous with this whole-of-government approach. Rather than protect American business, these comments create confusion among small businesses, embolden monopolists to further abuse their power, and undermine the effectiveness of the Biden administration's competition goals.

In contrast, competition experts elsewhere in the administration have been consistently committed to supporting our partners around the world in curbing monopoly power. For example, this week, the United States competition authorities released a joint statement with the European Commission under Commissioner Vestager which reaffirmed their "mutual interest in cooperating on competition policy and enforcement overall and especially in technology sectors."

This spirit of cooperation is essential to address the growing dominance of tech monopolies around the world. Without a committed whole-of-government approach in collaboration with our international partners we cannot hope to address the scale of the monopoly crisis.

The Biden administration stands at a unique inflection point which will determine the competitive health of our economy for the coming generation. If the Administration does not act with consensus, it will miss this opportunity.

We urge you to join the Biden administration's whole-of-government commitment to eliminating abusive monopolies in every industry.

Signed,

Access Humbolt
American Economic Liberties Project
American Family Voices
Blue Future
Broward for Progress
Center for Digital Democracy
Demand Progress
Electric Frontier Foundation
Facebook Users Union
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Jobs with Justice
Neward for Educational Equity and Diversity (NEED)
Ocean Futures Society
OpenMedia
Other98
Our Revolution

Public Citizen
Revolving Door Project
The Freedom BLOC
The X-Lab
UGR Consulting Brussels