

Senator Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Subcommittee
on Antitrust, Competition Policy
and Consumer Rights
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 26, 2021

Dear Senators Cantwell, Durbin and Klobuchar,

Congratulations on winning the new Democratic majority in the Senate, and on your new respective positions leading the Commerce Committee, Judiciary Committee, and Antitrust Subcommittee.

As you prepare to oversee the nomination process for our antitrust enforcement agencies, we write to urge you to make clear that Big Tech executives, lobbyists, lawyers, or consultants are unacceptable nominees for senior antitrust enforcement roles. The undersigned organizations are a broad coalition that represent millions of Americans, including many in your home states, who are concerned about Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google's concentrated power.

Today, these four corporations are widely understood to wield monopoly power in ways that harm consumers, workers, independent businesses, and democracy itself. Recent polling conducted by Pew Research Center shows that nearly half of Americans want to see the government step in and regulate Big Tech. State and federal enforcers are making progress on this front, and we can't risk losing ground by appointing sympathetic enforcers.

As you know, the House Antitrust Subcommittee completed a historic investigation into the monopoly abuses of Big Tech this past October and found bipartisan support for legislative and regulatory recommendations to rein in their power. Further, the U.S. Department of Justice recently joined with a group of state Attorneys General to file a historic antitrust suit against Google, and bipartisan groups of states have filed two additional suits. The FTC also filed an antitrust lawsuit against Facebook in late 2020, and on the same day, a coalition of state AGs filed a separate Facebook antitrust lawsuit. The FTC and DOJ are reportedly investigating Amazon and Apple as well. A DOJ Antitrust Division Assistant Attorney General, or Federal Trade Commissioner with ties to Big Tech would have to recuse themselves from these resource-intensive, high-profile suits, and jeopardize the historic bipartisan state-level efforts currently underway.

We believe that eliminating the decades-old revolving door between Silicon Valley and our antitrust agencies will not only help deliver just outcomes to American workers, consumers, and businesses, but

help restore trust in the integrity of government. We look forward to working with you and your staff to hold Big Tech corporations accountable in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

American Economic Liberties Project
Public Citizen
Artist Rights Alliance
Athena
Blue Future
Center for Digital Democracy
Demand Progress Education Fund
Demos
Food & Water Watch
Friends of the Earth
Future of Music Coalition
Global Exchange
Good Jobs First
Guns Down America
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
KBComms
Liberation in a Generation
Main Street Alliance
MPower Change
National Employment Law Project
Network for Public Education
Open Markets Institute
People's Parity Project
U.S. PIRG