

August 1, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and the millions of our fellow citizens who count on your administration to stem the gross concentration of power in the hands of a few dominant technology companies, we commend you on selecting Jonathan Kanter, a visionary antitrust enforcer, to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust at the Department of Justice.

Your choice of Mr. Kanter is timely. For years, the large technology platforms, including Facebook, Google, Apple, and Amazon, have consolidated their positions atop the digital economy and sought to constrain policymakers' ability to stand in their way. Anti-competitive practices have grown in other industries -- such as agriculture, travel, telecommunications, and pharmaceuticals -- depriving our economy of innovation, our workers of jobs, and consumers of lower prices.

We are approaching a make-or-break moment for revitalizing our democracy and restoring fair competition to our markets. Mr. Kanter, who has devoted his career to advancing competition and antitrust enforcement geared to 21st century realities, is the right person for the job. We call on the Senate to confirm him without delay.

But modernizing antitrust enforcement to tackle the challenges of today will require determination, coordination, and leadership across multiple government agencies and working with Congress. Your administration and allies in the House and Senate will face stiff resistance and intense lobbying from some of the most well-resourced and powerful corporations in history.

To be able to overcome that resistance, several outstanding personnel and policy decisions loom large:

- Selection of a Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust at DOJ
- Selection of a Federal Trade Commissioner to replace Rohit Chopra upon his appointment to head the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau
- Selection of a Director of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
- Selection of a fifth Federal Communications Commissioner
- Selection of leadership at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- Insistence that senior officials previously hired by Big Tech companies - in house or at outside firms - recuse themselves from matters pertaining to antitrust enforcement related to those companies
- Support for congressional action to strengthen antitrust enforcement

In each case, we believe that it is essential that you continue in the pattern of your most recent decision to nominate Mr. Kanter, by choosing the public's interest in real reform and aggressive antitrust enforcement over these corporations' interest in extending the status quo indefinitely. The trajectory over the last several administrations of market consolidation and democracy disintegration cannot be allowed to continue.

Opinion poll after opinion poll shows that the American people support strong action to curb the power of dominant technology platforms and oppose continued monopolization of the digital economy and emergent technologies.

For our nation to continue to lead in the world, we must strengthen our society, economy, and democracy at home -- we must build back better. We will be unable to do so if we let the consolidation of market power continue unabated in the industries most critical to our democracy and our collective future.

Sincerely,

American Economic Liberties Project  
Blue Future  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Demand Progress  
Fight for the Future  
Freedom BLOC  
Friends of the Earth  
Greenpeace US  
Institute for Local Self-Reliance  
Jobs with Justice  
Our Revolution  
People's Parity Project  
Presente  
Progress America  
Progressive Change Campaign Committee  
Project Blueprint  
Revolving Door Project  
RootsAction.org  
Social Security Works  
The X-Lab  
Working Families Party