

September 15, 2021

Re: Timely Confirmation of Jonathan Kanter as AAG for Antitrust

Dear Leader Schumer and Senate Judiciary Chair Durbin,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and the millions of Americans gravely concerned about the threat modern-day monopolies pose to our economy and our democracy, we urge you to advance the confirmation of Jonathan Kanter, President Biden's nominee to serve as Associate Attorney General (AAG) for antitrust matters, as swiftly as possible.

The AAG position oversees the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division, responsible for investigating antitrust cases, holding violators accountable, and promoting fair economic competition. The role is critical. Its ongoing vacancy -- already the longest in modern history -- is hobbling the government's enforcement efforts. A new sense of urgency from the Biden administration and Congress, in the form of new legislation and executive action, will have limited impact so long as we lack a strong antitrust AAG to lead the way.

This is an urgent economic crisis. Corporate consolidation, anticompetitive practices, and monopolistic trends continue to appear across American industries with alarming speed. There is no other industry where this is more true than tech, as Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google have amassed enormous market share, swallowed competitors, stifled innovation, jeopardized small businesses, and weakened democracy. These companies are marshalling lobbyists and a massive public relations effort to impede action in Congress and the executive branch and further entrench their stranglehold on the digital economy.

Mr. Kanter is a visionary antitrust leader who has seen these growing threats for what they are. His appointment marks the start of a new era for antitrust enforcement in the United States, but the window for reining in Big Tech's dominance may soon be closing. Whether the federal government will act expeditiously and forcefully enough to confront the challenge depends, in large part, on the Senate's swift confirmation of this nomination. We urge you to act.

Signed,

Accountable Tech
American Economic Liberties Project
Athena
Blue Future
Center for Digital Democracy
Center for Popular Democracy

Demand Progress
Fights for the Future
The Freedom BLOC
Friends of the Earth US
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Jobs with Justice
Main Street Alliance
National Employment Law Project
The Other 98%
Our Revolution
People's Parity Project
Progress America
Project Blueprint
Public Citizen
Revolving Door Project
Social Security Works
Writers Guild of America West
X-Lab