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Sen. Maria Cantwell
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
425 Hart Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
512 Dirksen Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

I am writing to encourage you to support the confirmation of Gigi Sohn as a commissioner at the FCC. I worked closely with Ms. Sohn for three years while I was the Chief of the Public Safety and Homeland Bureau. I know her to be a patriot, a strong supporter of law enforcement and an advocate for public safety professionals. She would be an outstanding commissioner and bring useful consumer and community focused perspective to the FCC.

While at the FCC, Ms. Sohn and I worked together on several important issues, and in every item, Ms. Sohn brought valuable public voice and understanding into the record. During that timeframe the Commission laid the groundwork for Next Generation 9-1-1, closed the indoor location gap for 9-1-1, demonstrably improved emergency alerting, brought FirstNet across the finish line, and improved the resiliency of communications supporting consumers and communities after disasters.

In addition, during our shared tenure, the Commission closely examined net neutrality and privacy policies for telecommunications. Ms. Shon's background and understanding of technology issues was extremely useful. She helped my bureau gain access to technologists, privacy policy experts and security

experts to ensure that our work fully evaluated the costs and benefits of cybersecurity through a consumer lens. She recognized cybersecurity and supply chain risk for the challenges they have become and facilitated participation of cybersecurity professionals in our FACAs and other meetings.

Moreover, during my time at the Commission, encryption policy for telecommunications was an area without clear government, industry, or consumer consensus. Across the multiple federal agencies that were looking into encryption from a policy perspective, there were proponents for strong end-to-end encryption policies for commercial communication encryption (no backdoors) that also advocated for expanded Lawful Intercept capabilities built into future standards. Ms. Sohn took no position on encryption policy or encryption matters before us. On the contrary, she was extremely helpful in bringing tech-savvy professionals before the Bureau to provide useful background on both sides of the issue. Her support for the privacy rights of citizens has always been balanced with strong support for National Security and Public Safety objectives.

Tension continues regarding the appropriate national policy for commercial encryption. The Zero Trust architecture approach adopted by DoD, NSA and ONDI leaders includes strong end-to-end encryption of data to address cybersecurity threats. Many in law enforcement are concerned about potential loss of Lawful Intercept access from Zero Trust implementation, while consumer advocates remain concerned over loss of privacy in a fully developed Internet of Things world, and cybersecurity professionals seek to eliminate vulnerabilities from encryption implementation that supports third party privileged access. Congress can clarify FCC's role in addressing these competing priorities as 5G enables further expansion of our connected wireless lives. As a commissioner, I have every confidence that Ms. Sohn would be an impartial jurist who will ask tough questions, help fill in public testimony, support transparency and vote her conscious based on the law and the record before her. I believe her decisions will balance consumer, citizen and community interests with law enforcement and national security priorities consistent with statutory guidance from congress.

Another notable example of Ms. Sohn's decision-making process can be found in her support for the FCC's effort to recompute and seat a new telephone number portability administrator. Incumbent lobbying efforts attempted to derail this effort and Ms. Sohn's sage counsel helped us successfully navigate the policy challenges in a manner that improved service, lowered cost, and preserved lawful intercept capabilities. As the Congress looks forward to

addressing the privacy and security challenges of a converged 5G communications and cloud landscape, Data Portability will certainly be a concern. Ms. Sohn's number portability experience will ensure that security and privacy expert voices as well as consumers and communities viewpoints are heard and well considered. My experience working with Ms. Sohn suggests that she will affirmatively seek inputs from both national security and law enforcement professionals and work with her colleagues to ensure that public safety is paramount for any decisions. She will be a useful witness before your committee to ensure that your deliberations benefit from a fulsome public record generated by the FCC.

In conclusion, Gigi Sohn has my strongest possible endorsement for your confirmation as a commissioner at the FCC. Invariably there will be issues where her vote may not be the one you would make, but you will always know that she is a straight shooter ready to fully articulate 'the why' behind her decision. I believe you will appreciate her candor as you make decisions in developing the FCC's priorities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Simpson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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