

Statement for the Record by

Edith Ramirez

Nominee, Federal Trade Commission

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am deeply honored to be here today, as a nominee of President Obama to the Federal Trade Commission. The opportunity to join the FTC—an agency that plays a vital role in the economic life of every American—is a true privilege, and I appear before you with great respect and gratitude as you consider my nomination.

For close to one hundred years, the FTC has sought to ensure that American consumers can participate meaningfully and fairly in a competitive marketplace. That work has always been extraordinarily important to our system of free enterprise. Competition spurs economic innovation, lowers prices, and brings greater and more informed choices to everyday Americans. American consumers and businesses alike rely on the FTC's effective enforcement of the antitrust and consumer protection laws to ensure that these benefits of competition are achieved.

Now, in these difficult economic times, the need to be vigilant and aggressive in protecting American consumers is especially pressing. The Commission's duty to combat deceptive and unfair business practices and to foster competition has never been greater, particularly in the areas that have the greatest impact on the daily lives of ordinary Americans such as financial services, healthcare, energy, and technology.

Nor can the FTC rest on its past successes. The Commission faces new challenges brought about by rapid innovation, increased globalization, and continued economic uncertainty. These challenges herald a new era for the agency and raise ever more difficult questions.

I am mindful of the challenges that lie ahead and am confident that my experience and background will enable me to bring a fresh perspective to the issues confronting the FTC. In my more than fifteen years of legal practice, I have counseled and advocated for major corporations in a wide range of complex business matters. During that time, I have also been deeply committed to serving the public interest through my work with non-profits and leadership in various civic organizations, including the board of the country's largest municipal utility. I am certain my experience in the private sector and in the Los Angeles community will help me advance the mission of the FTC.

It would be an honor to be a member of the Federal Trade Commission. If confirmed, I will approach the matters before the Commission with an open and creative mind, and dedicate myself to working closely with this Committee, my fellow Commissioners, and the agency's able staff to protect the interests of American consumers.

Thank you.