

Opening Statement  
Rebecca Kelly Slaughter  
Commerce Committee Nominations Hearing  
September 20, 2023

Thank you Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and members of the Committee. It is an incredible honor to return to this committee as you consider my nomination as well as those of my fellow nominees.

I would like to begin by acknowledging and thanking my family. I'm joined today by my son, Teddy, who is 11, my daughter Ellie, who is 9, and my daughter Pippa, who is 5. And I will note—at my first confirmation hearing, Pippa was only nine days old. She is now a proud kindergartener, and proud big sister to my youngest child, Harriet, who is 3, and sitting right near her. And I am boundlessly grateful to my husband Justin for his partnership, love, and support. I also want to acknowledge my parents and brother, who traveled here from New York City, as well as the many other friends and family online and in person whose support means so much to me.

When I last sat before you as a nominee, the Senate had been my professional home for a decade. I could not imagine that I could find another job as fulfilling and challenging as the work I was privileged to do for this great body. But the last five years I've spent at the FTC have exceeded all my expectations. The FTC is made up of dedicated, brilliant, professional staff who are deeply committed to our mission and from whom I learn every day. The work we do is not easy—markets are complicated, resources are limited, and we are often forced to make very difficult decisions—but it is incredibly rewarding. We wake up every day dedicated to carrying out Congress's directive to protect consumers and promote competition, and I appreciate that these are more than abstract concepts. At the heart of our work are the real Americans who bear the brunt of unfair and deceptive acts and practices, and unfair methods of competition, that make it harder to put food on the table, to pay for healthcare, to build a business, and to navigate the digital world.

So when we succeed at stopping and deterring illegal conduct, we are taking meaningful steps to helping those Americans participate freely, fully, and fairly in the economy. And that, in turn, makes our markets stronger—when honest businesses compete to provide better products and services at better prices, America wins.

One of the best parts about working at the FTC is the opportunity to engage with people who have a wide variety of perspectives and expertise, including the staff, academics, advocates, attorneys, economists, and of course my fellow Commissioners. I believe the work of the Commission is at its best when it is the product of a robust exchange of ideas and viewpoints. So I am particularly glad to be sitting here today with nominees for the two Republican seats on the Commission. I have sorely missed my colleagues, former Commissioners Noah Phillips and Christine Wilson, and look forward to the opportunity to get to know and work with Solicitors General Holyoak and Ferguson. We will not always agree, but I am committed to always engaging with them and seeking out common ground wherever it is available. Thank you again for your consideration, and I look forward to your questions.