

Support for Gigi Sohn Nomination
Organizations/Companies/Trade Associations
(list in formation)

1. 18 Million Rising
2. 2050 Hawaii, Inc.
3. 5G Free RI
4. A. Philip Randolph Institute
5. Access Humboldt
6. Accountable Tech
7. ADT Security Services
8. Advocacy for Principled Action in Government
9. Advocacy Initiative for Development (AID)
10. AFL-CIO
11. Akaku Maui Community Media
12. Ala Kuola
13. Alarm Industry Communications Committee (AICC)
14. Alaska State Library
15. Alliance for Community Media
16. Allstream
17. Aloha Independent Living Hawaii
18. American Association for Public Broadband
19. American Economic Liberties Project
20. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
21. American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
22. American Library Association
23. American Society on Aging
24. Andrew Goodman Foundation, Inc.
25. Appalshop Community Media Initiative
26. Arizona State University
27. Arlington Community Media Inc.
28. Arlington Independent Media
29. Asbury Park Free Public Library
30. Ashbury Senior Computer Community Center (ASC3)
31. Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
32. Aspiration
33. Association of LGBTQ+ Corporate Directors
34. Athlete Ally
35. Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation
36. Baltimore City Mayor's Office
37. Belmont Media Center
38. Benton Institute for Broadband & Society
39. Berwick Community Media
40. Boulder Thinking LLC
41. Branford Community Television
42. Buckeye Hills Regional Council
43. buildJUSTLY
44. California Brain Tumor Association
45. California Center for Rural Policy
46. California Clean Money Campaign
47. California Community Foundation Digital Equity Initiative
48. California Emerging Technology Fund
49. California LGBT Arts Alliance
50. Cambodian American Community Council of Washington
51. CARDBoard Project
52. Capital Community Media
53. Cat's in the Cradle New Life Sanctuary
54. CATS Community Access Television Services
55. CCTV Center for Media + Democracy, Burlington, Vermont
56. Center for Accessible Technology
57. Center for American Progress
58. Center for Democracy & Technology
59. Center for Disability Rights
60. Center for Rural Strategies
61. Chamber of Progress
62. Channelford Associates Inc
63. Christ is Relief Inc
64. Citizens Fiber Initiative Group

65. City of New Bedford Cable Access -
New Bedford, MA
66. City of Portland
67. City of San Jose
68. City of Seattle Department of
Information Technology
69. Civic Education Council
70. Civic Shout
71. Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
72. Clear Light Ventures
73. Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
74. Code in the Schools
75. Color Of Change
76. Common Cause
77. Common Sense
78. Communications Service for the
Deaf, Inc.
79. Communications Workers of
America
80. Communities Closing the Urban
Digital Divide
81. Community Media Access
Collaborative
82. Community Media Center of Marin
83. Community Tech Network
84. Computer & Communications
Industry Association (CCIA)
85. CompTIA
86. Computer Reach
87. Connect Your Community Institute
88. Connecticut Office of Consumer
Counsel
89. Connecting Appalachia
90. ConnectMaine
91. Consumers for Safe Cellphones
92. Consumer Technology Association
(CTA)
93. CoSN
94. Council for Global Equality
95. Crescent City Media Group
96. Crown Castle
97. CSM Consulting, Inc.
98. Davis Media Access
99. Decode Democracy
100. Defending Rights & Dissent
101. Demand Progress Education Fund
102. Democracy for America
103. Derry Community Access Media
104. Detroit Community Technology
Project
105. Digital Connect Initiative
106. Digital Defense Fund
107. Digital Equity Institute
108. Digital Equity Learning Network of
King County
109. Digital Equity Research Center
110. Digiunity
111. DISH
112. Duluth Public Access Community
Television
113. Economic Security Project Action
114. E-Rate & Educational Services, LLC
115. E-Rate Central
116. E-RATE ONLINE
117. E2D, Inc.
118. Education SuperHighway
119. Educational Consulting Associates
120. Educational Professional Services
121. Electronic Frontier Foundation
122. Electronic Privacy Information
Center (EPIC)
123. EMF Safety Network
124. Engine
125. Environmental Working Group
126. Equality California
127. Equality Federation
128. EveryLibrary Institute
129. EveryoneON
130. EYEJ: Empowering Youth,
Exploring Justice
131. Falmouth Community Televisions
Corp, Inc.
132. Families Advocating for Chemical
and Toxics Safety
133. Family Equality
134. FC Public Media
135. Feminist Majority Foundation
136. Fiber Broadband Association (FBA)
137. FiberComm
138. Fight for the Future

139. FirstLight Fiber
140. FORGE, Inc.
141. Framingham Public Access Corporation
142. FREE! Families Rally for Emancipation and Empowerment
143. Free Press Action
144. Friends of Makakilo
145. Friends of Waimañalo
146. Friends of the Earth
147. Front Porch
148. Fuse Media
149. Fuse.Cloud
150. Future of Music Coalition
151. Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.
152. GLAAD
153. Golden Frog, GmbH
154. Granby Community Access and Media, Inc.
155. Granite Telecommunications, LLC
156. Greater Northshire Access Television, Inc.
157. Greenfield Community Television
158. Greenpeace USA
159. GWI
160. Hadley Media – Town of Hadley
161. Harrison Edwards, Inc.
162. Hawaii Broadband Hui
163. Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice
164. Hawai'i Pono'i Coalition
165. Hawai'i Women in Filmmaking
166. Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office
167. Hawaii International Film Festival
168. Hilliary Communications, LLC
169. Hispanic Federation
170. Human Rights Campaign
171. Human-I-T
172. Hustle
173. IBSA, Inc.
174. IdeaTek
175. Illinois for Educational Equity
176. INCOMPAS
177. Indivisible Sacramento
178. InnovateEDU
179. Institute for Local Self-Reliance
180. Inteliquent
181. InterAct
182. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
183. Internet Infrastructure Coalition (i2Coalition)
184. Jack Straw Cultural Center
185. JAG – Jersey Access Group
186. Japanese American Citizens League
187. Jeff Davis County Library
188. JusticeLA Coalition
189. Kairos Action
190. Kansas City Public Library
191. Kipahulu Ohana, Inc.
192. KOKO LP- 96.3 FM Hana Maui
193. Lambda Legal
194. Lake Champlain Access Television
195. Last Tree Laws
196. Latinx Digital Leaders Now
197. Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
198. League of Conservation Voters
199. LGBTQ Bar Association
200. LGBTQ Technology Partnership
201. LGBTQ Victory Institute
202. Libraries Without Borders US
203. LICT Corporation, Tucson, Arizona
204. LISC Phoenix
205. Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
206. Literacy Assistance Center
207. Literacy Source
208. Local TV, Inc. (LTV)
209. Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation
210. LPAC Action Network
211. Lucy Parsons Labs
212. LULAC Illinois Education Council 5238
213. Lucky Thirteen Design & Consulting LLC
214. Lynn Community Television
215. Maine Broadband Coalition

216. Maine Community Media, Inc.
217. Massachusetts Community Media dba MassAccess
218. Media Alliance
219. Media, Inequality & Change Center
220. MediaJustice
221. Medfield TV
222. Melrose Massachusetts Television
223. MetroEast Community Media
224. Merit Network, Michigan
225. MetTel
226. Mobile Beacon
227. Mobile Citizen, a Voqal Project
228. Mohuman
229. More Perfect Union
230. Motor House
231. Movement Alliance Project
232. Movement Labs
233. MoveOn
234. Mozilla Foundation
235. MPower Change Action Fund
236. MuralNet
237. Muslim Advocates
238. Muslim Counterpublics Lab
239. Nantucket Community Television, Inc.
240. National Association of Housing Cooperatives
241. National Association of Telecommunications Officers & Advisors (NATOA)
242. National Association of the Deaf
243. National Black Justice Coalition
244. National Center for Transgender Equality
245. National Consumers League
246. National Collaborative for Digital Equity
247. National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
248. National Fair Housing Alliance
249. National Digital Equity Center
250. National Digital Inclusion Alliance
251. National Federation of Community Broadcasters (NFCB)
252. National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
253. National Skills Coalition
254. National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)
255. National Urban League
256. Native Public Media
257. Navajo Nation
258. NC Telehealth Network Association
259. NENA: the 911 Association
260. New America's Open Technology Institute
261. Newark for Educational Equity & Diversity
262. New Hampshire Coalition for Community Media
263. Newsmax
264. North Shore TV
265. Northwest Access TV
266. Norway Paris Community TV
267. NTCA: The Rural Broadband Association
268. NTEN
269. NTTA: National Tribal Telecommunications Association
270. Northern Arapaho Business Council
271. OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates
272. OD Action
273. Office of Community Technology, City of Portland, Oregon
274. 'Olelo Community Media
275. Omaha Community Media
276. OMNI Productions
277. Open Markets Institute
278. Open MIC (Open Media and Information Companies Initiative)
279. Open Technology Institute
280. OpenMedia
281. Open Works
282. Orion Neighborhood Television (ONTV)
283. Our Revolution
284. Outpost Publishers Cooperative
285. Pacific American Foundation
286. Pacific Northwest Gigapop

287. Partners Bridging the Digital Divide
288. Parents Television & Media Council
289. PCs for People
290. Peabody TV
291. People's Parity Project
292. PFLAG National
293. PhillyCAM
294. Pride at Work
295. Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
296. Presente.org
297. Pro-Choice North Carolina
298. Pro-Choice Washington
299. Progress America
300. Progressive Change Campaign Committee
301. Progressive Technology Project
302. Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
303. Public Citizen
304. Public Health Innovators, LLC
305. Public Knowledge
306. Rebuild Johnston Square Neighborhood Organization, Inc.
307. REC Networks
308. Red Rock Mountain Studios LLC
309. Redbud Telecom Consulting
310. Reframe Health and Justice
311. Restore the Fourth
312. Revolving Door Project
313. Right Here, Right Now Project
314. ROANENet
315. Robert W. Deutsch Foundation
316. RootsAction.org
317. Rural America Strategies, LLC
318. Rural Arizona Action
319. Rural Wireless Association, Inc.
320. Saco River Community Media
321. Sacramento Community Cable Foundation
322. Salem Community Television, Salem NH
323. Salina Media Connection; Community Access TV of Salina, Inc.,
324. San Diego Futures Foundation
325. Secure Justice
326. Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
327. SBI (Smith Bagley Inc)
328. Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition
329. Silicon Harlem
330. Silver State Equality-Nevada
331. Socket
332. Sonic Telecom
333. Soulee LKO Stroud
334. Sound E-rate, Inc.
335. South Central Alabama Broadband Cooperative District
336. Southern Echo Inc.
337. Southern Oregon Education Service District
338. Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic and Social Justice
339. Southern Ute Indian Tribe
340. Southwest Pennsylvania for Safe Technology
341. SPEAK MPLS
342. Specrotel Holding Company LLC
343. Springfield Area Public Access Television
344. Starry Group Holdings, Inc. (Starry Internet)
345. State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)
346. Stemanstics, LLC
347. Sun Corridor Network
348. Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (S.T.O.P.)
349. SVP Community Media, BRIC Arts Media, Brooklyn, NY
350. Swinging Sixties Productions
351. Tahoe Truckee Media
352. TakeItBack.org
353. Tech for Good Asia
354. Tech Goes Home
355. Technology Learning Collaborative
356. Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI)
357. Terabyte Media LLC
358. Texas Networking, Inc.

359. Texoma Communications, LLC
360. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Mississippi
361. The Freedom BLOC
362. The Greenlining Institute
363. The Juggernaut Project
364. The Marconi Society
365. The New Hampshire Coalition for Community Media
366. The Oasis Institute
367. The OMNI Centre for Public Media, Inc.
368. The Open Markets Institute
369. The Other 98%
370. The Sex Workers Project of the Urban Justice Center
371. The Tech Oversight Project
372. The Trevor Project
373. The Utility Reform Network (TURN)
374. Thundercloud, Inc.
375. Tilson
376. Together for Hope: A Rural Development Coalition
377. Town of Ridgefield Economic & Community Development Commission
378. Truconnect Communications, Inc.
379. Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
380. UCLA Center on Race & Digital Justice
381. Ultraviolet Action
382. United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry
383. UnidosUS
384. UNITE-LA
385. United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry
386. Uniti Group
387. Urban Libraries Council
388. US Ignite
389. UTOPIA Fiber
390. Valley Shore Community Television Inc.
391. Valley Vision
392. Vermont Access Network
393. Vermont Mutual Aid Society
394. Visionary Broadband
395. Voqal
396. WACA TV
397. Waikiki Hawaiian Civic Club
398. Wallingford Public Access Association, Inc. d/b/a WPAA-TV
399. WA People's Privacy
400. Wastewater Alternatives and Innovations
401. West Hartford Community Interactive
402. Western New York Library Resources Council
403. Western Telecommunications Association
404. Wide Angle Youth Media
405. Winchester Community Access & Media Inc.
406. Wired Broadband, Inc.
407. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
408. Women's March
409. Woodhull Freedom Foundation
410. Writers Guild of America West (WGAW)
411. X-Lab
412. Zayo Group, LLC
413. ZenFi Networks

Notable Individuals

1. Byron Allen, CEO, Entertainment Studios
2. Admiral Jamie Barnett, David Simpson and David Turetsky, former Chiefs of the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
3. Belinda Biafore, Chairwoman of the West Virginia Democratic Party
4. Bradley Blakeman, Member of George W. Bush's White House staff
5. Mignon Clyburn, former Acting FCC Chairwoman, Principal, MLC Strategies
6. John Feehery, Republican communications strategist, former press secretary to Speaker Dennis Hastert
7. Terry Goddard, President, Maricopa, Central Arizona Project, Former Mayor of Phoenix and former Arizona Attorney General
8. Karen Goff, Executive Secretary, West Virginia Library Commission
9. Charles Herring, President, One America News Network
10. Roger Hanshaw (R), Speaker of the West Virginia House of Delegates
11. Dallas Harris, Senator, Nevada State Legislature
12. Judson Hill, Former Republican Georgia State Senator
13. Bob Knight, Co-Chair Public Officials Committee, Fiber Broadband Association
14. Hilda Gay Legg, Former USDA Rural Development State Director for Kentucky and the Former RUS Administrator under George W. Bush
15. Daniel Linville (R), West Virginia House of Delegates - Chairman of the Committee on Technology and Infrastructure
16. Preston Padden, former Fox and Disney Executive
17. Chip Pickering, CEO of INCOMPAS, Former Republican Congressman from Mississippi
18. Robert Plymale (D), West Virginia Senator: Sits on West Virginia Broadband Enhancement Council, the FCC Intergovernmental Advisory Committee, and Treasurer to the Southern Regional Education Board
19. Chris Ruddy, CEO of Newsmax
20. Chad Rupe, Former RUS Administrator under Donald Trump, Managing member of Rural America Strategies LLC
21. Roger Timmerman, Executive Director of UTOPIA Fiber/Utah Infrastructure Agency and Delegate to the Utah Republican Party
22. Gloria Tristani, former FCC Commissioner

Preston Padden
Boulder Thinking, LLC
2389 Indian Peaks Trail
Lafayette, CO 80026

January 30, 2023

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0411

Via E-Mail to Committee Staff

Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully request that this letter be included in the record of the hearing that will be held on the nomination of Gigi Sohn to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission. Ms. Sohn's politics are to the left of mine, but she is a superbly qualified and experienced nominee who should be confirmed as soon as possible.

I have the greatest respect for this Committee and its Members before whom I have testified many times as President of the ABC Television Network, a founding executive of the Fox Broadcasting Company and as the head of Government Relations for both News Corporation/Fox (Murdoch) and The Walt Disney Company. I fear that this esteemed Committee, like Ms. Sohn, is in danger of falling victim to the worst, and most cynical and baseless smear campaign ever waged against a nominee to serve on the FCC. Ms. Sohn's only sin is that she roots for the underdog and for consumers. As a result, some of the dominant Cable TV companies and Internet Service Providers have stooped to lows never before seen to smear Ms. Sohn. They correctly fear that she would be a vote to require them to compete fairly and to respect consumers.

Ms. Sohn's opponents have planted article after article alleging that she is against Native Americans, against Hispanics, against rural communities, against police and that she is connected with illicit sex workers. It's all rubbish! A total of 375 organizations, companies, elected officials and local governments, including numerous Tribes, Hispanic organizations and public safety officials have voiced their support for Ms. Sohn's nomination!

The press stories ginned up by Ms. Sohn's opponents are beneath scurrilous and are beneath the dignity of this Committee. For example, one Daily Mail online story (not a Murdoch publication) began with a picture of Ms. Sohn juxtaposed next to a salacious picture of a sex worker with whom Ms. Sohn has absolutely no connection. This is

“Tabloid Trash” at its worst, all brought to you, I believe, by agents of some of the country’s biggest Cable Companies and ISP’s.

I worked for Rupert Murdoch for seven years and secured for him waivers of FCC Rules that stood in the way of the launch of Fox Broadcasting Company - the long sought fourth free-over-the-air TV Network. Recently Mr. Murdoch sent me a note that expressed misgivings about Ms. Sohn’s nomination. I replied by reminding him (actually, he may never have known) that because Ms. Sohn fights for underdogs (which Fox certainly was in its early days), and because she saw the pro-consumer benefits of a fourth network, she was very helpful to our efforts to fend off fierce lobbying attacks from the three established networks and to secure the waivers that we needed. And I advised him that Ms. Sohn’s interest in requiring dominant Cable and ISP “pipe” companies to play fairly could be helpful to a company like his that has important content assets, but no bottleneck “pipes”. Mr. Murdoch responded that he stood corrected in his view of Ms. Sohn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Preston Padden
Boulder Thinking, LLC
2389 Indian Peaks Trail
Lafayette, CO 80026
202-329-4750
Ppadden@mac.com

Statement of Newsmax CEO Christopher Ruddy Re: FCC Nominations

In the past I have dealt with both Jessica Rosenworcel and Gigi Sohn on policy issues

affecting the FCC and media and have found them to be fair-minded persons of strong integrity.

President Biden has nominated both to the FCC and I support their nominations.

Increasingly, independently operated cable news channels like Newsmax are being sidelined in favor of a small number of mega-corporations who dominate the channel

line-ups, forcing upon consumers expensive and little-watched networks. It's bad for the public interest and dangerous for democracy.

While I don't always agree with the nominees on many policy matters, Newsmax fully supports the Commission's mandate to promote diversity, localism and competition in the marketplace. Newsmax believes both nominees are committed to that mandate and I urge the Senate to confirm the nominations of Jessica Rosenworcel and Gigi Sohn.



Charles
@CharlesPHerring

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Gigi Sohn is one of the most knowledgeable persons I know on FCC issues and has the common sense & desire to work with people on both sides of the aisle. I've witnessed first hand her dedication to DIVERSITY IN MEDIA & the FIRST AMENDMENT. I fully endorse her nomination for FCC.



Statement by Charles Herring, President of One America News Network

Subject: Endorsing the Confirmation of Gigi Sohn as FCC Commissioner

Unfortunately, many times business owners find themselves in the position where they need to advocate for reasonable, light-handed regulations. The cable programming industry is no different. As an executive of an independent, family-owned business of two national networks, One America News Network and AWE, I've found myself advocating for more open markets in an environment that is arguably a quasi-monopoly. I've fought in the trenches side-by-side with Gigi Sohn for a number of years on multiple issues. I'm fully aware of Gigi's personal views, yet I'm even more knowledgeable on her strong belief and advocacy for diversity in the programming lineup, especially in news, regardless of conflicts with her personal views.

Gigi has been very consistent in her views for diversity in media. She has advocated for reasonable policies to support numerous points of view and to open up the markets to independent voices in all aspects of media. She believes in the First Amendment and the advantages of a strong and open media for the benefit of our democracy.

She is one of the most knowledgeable persons I know on FCC issues and has the common sense and desire to work with people on both sides of the aisle. I've witnessed her dedication first hand and I fully encourage fellow programmers and friends across the spectrum to step up and express their support for Gigi Sohn.

Kindest Regards,

Charles P. Herring
President
Herring Networks, Inc.
Dba One America News Network and AWE

*Herring Networks, Inc.
DBA: One America News Network & AWE
4757 Morena Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92117*

3:54 PM · Nov 10, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

November 30, 2021

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker,

We are writing to urge the swift and concurrent confirmation of Jessica Rosenworcel and Gigi Sohn for the Federal Communications Commission and Alan Davidson for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. These agencies urgently need Senate-confirmed leaders to address the critical need for affordable and resilient access to the open internet in the midst of a global pandemic and worsening climate crisis. Through bipartisan infrastructure legislation, Congress has given these agencies enormous tasks on tight deadlines. These exceptional nominees' appointments so late in the year means there can be no delay in confirming them and getting started in earnest on all of that urgent work.

These three nominees each bring decades of experience, a commitment to the public interest, and the skills necessary to fulfill the missions of these agencies.

Jessica Rosenworcel's tenure at the FCC makes her an exceptional pick for FCC Chair. She is a respected and principled advocate with a proven record of fighting for the public interest. She has long championed efforts to ensure everyone in America, particularly schoolchildren, have affordable and reliable high-speed broadband to provide them with the tools they need for a successful future. Chairwoman Rosenworcel's efforts to close the "homework gap" embody that commitment. As Acting Chair, she quickly and successfully launched the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a program that is now helping millions of Americans afford access to the internet.

For over 30 years, Gigi Sohn's priority has been ensuring that modern communications networks are available to everybody, regardless of who they are or where they live. Her life's work has embodied the standard on which the FCC bases its decisions: the public interest. She served as a top aide to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and helped found and lead a non-profit focused on promoting an open and competitive communications and technology market. She has a proven record of bringing together varied stakeholders, including public interest advocates and companies, in bipartisan coalitions to fight for equitable broadband policies, consumer protections, competition and the open internet.

Alan Davidson has over 20 years of experience in government, industry and public interest advocacy, making him an ideal candidate to take up the interagency work of the NTIA, and to guide not only NTIA's existing spectrum allocation and broadband policy work, but also its greatly increased grantmaking and coordinating role in implementation of the bipartisan infrastructure bill's broadband funding provisions.

Even before the pandemic struck over 21 months ago, 2019 Census data showed that nearly 80 million people in the U.S. did not have adequate broadband at home.¹ According to that data, poor families and people of color are disproportionately disconnected — only 48 percent of low-income households had a fixed broadband connection at that time, and 13 million Black people, 18 million Latinx people and 1.3 million Indigenous people lacked this kind of adequate home connectivity.² Digital divide indicators like education and income disparities demonstrate that many Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and ethnic groups are also disproportionately impacted, and some AAPI communities and individuals with reduced English proficiency levels may adopt broadband at lower rates than the national average.³

At the same time communities across the country are facing more frequent extreme weather events due to the climate crisis, and those events are taking down crucial communications infrastructure on an increasingly regular basis.

And while Congress passed historic legislation to address broadband affordability and accessibility for both urban and rural communities in the midst of the pandemic, the FCC and NTIA's ability to administer these Congressional directives — as well as their ability to promote affordability, competition, privacy, sound spectrum policy, and network resiliency along with other consumer protections using existing authorities — has been limited by the deadlocked FCC and the lack of an Assistant Secretary at NTIA.

Any delay in confirming all three of these nominees will stall progress on achieving those goals and ensuring that everyone in the United States is able to access robust, affordable high-speed internet.

We urge you to confirm these three public-interest champions before the Senate recesses at the end of the year. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

18 Million Rising
Access Humboldt
Akaku Maui Community Media
Alliance for Community Media
American Library Association
Appalshop Community Media Initiative

¹ See Comments of Free Press, FCC GN Docket No. 20-269, at 4 (filed Sept. 18, 2020), https://www.freepress.net/sites/default/files/2020-09/free_press_2020_section_706_inquiry_comments.pdf.

² See *id.*

³ See Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Telecommunications and Technology Fact Sheet, <https://advancingjustice-ajajc.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Lifeline%20Backgrounder.pdf>.

Benton Institute for Broadband & Society
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California Center for Rural Policy
California Clean Money Campaign
Capital Community Media
CATS Community Access Television Services
Center for Accessible Technology
Center for Democracy & Technology
City of New Bedford Cable Access - New Bedford, MA
Color Of Change
Common Sense
Communications Workers of America
Communities Closing the Urban Digital Divide
Community Media Access Collaborative
Decode Democracy
Demand Progress Education Fund
Democracy for America
Derry Community Access Media
Duluth Public Access Community Television
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Engine
FC Public Media
Fight for the Future
Free Press Action
Friends of the Earth
Granby Community Access and Media, Inc.
The Greenlining Institute
Greenpeace USA
Hawaii Consumers
Illinois for Educational Equity
Indivisible Sacramento
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Libraries Without Borders US
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Melrose Massachusetts Television
Movement Alliance Project
Mozilla Foundation
National Association of the Deaf
National Consumers League

Native Public Media
Newark for Educational Equity & Diversity
The New Hampshire Coalition for Community Media
North Shore TV
NTEN
OD Action
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OMNI Productions
Open MIC (Open Media and Information Companies Initiative)
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PhillyCAM
Presente.org
Progress America
Public Knowledge
Revolving Door Project
RootsAction.org
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San Diego Futures Foundation
Tahoe Truckee Media
Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI)
TURN - The Utility Reform Network
United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry
Valley Shore Community Television Inc.
Western New York Library Resources Council
Winchester Community Access & Media, Inc.
Writers Guild of America West
X-Lab



November 16, 2021

Officers

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Judith L. Lichtman
National Partnership for
Women & Families

Vice Chairs

Derrick Johnson
NAACP
Thomas A. Saenz
Mexican American Legal
Defense and Educational Fund

Secretary

Fatima Goss Graves
National Women's Law Center

Treasurer

Lee A. Saunders
American Federation of State,
County & Municipal Employees

Board of Directors

Kimberly Churches

AAUW

Ray Curry

International Union, UAW

Jonathan Greenblatt

Anti-Defamation League

Mary Kay Henry

Service Employees International Union

Damon Hewitt

Lawyers' Committee for

Civil Rights Under Law

Sherrilyn Ifill

NAACP Legal Defense and

Educational Fund, Inc.

David H. Inoue

Japanese American Citizens League

Benjamin Jealous

People for the American Way

Derrick Johnson

NAACP

Virginia Kase Solomon

League of Women Voters of the

United States

Samer E. Khalaf

American-Arab

Anti-Discrimination Committee

Joni Madison

Human Rights Campaign

Marc Morial

National Urban League

Janet Murguía

UnidosUS

Debra L. Ness

National Partnership for

Women & Families

Christian F. Nunes

National Organization for Women

Rabbi Jonah Pesner

Religious Action Center

Of Reform Judaism

Rebecca Pringle

National Education Association

Lisa Rice

National Fair Housing Alliance

Anthony Romero

American Civil Liberties Union

Fawn Sharp

National Congress of American Indians

Liz Shuler

AFL-CIO

Maria Town

American Association of

People with Disabilities

Randi Weingarten

American Federation of Teachers

John C. Yang

Asian Americans Advancing Justice |

AAJC

Interim President & CEO

Wade Henderson

**SUPPORT SWIFT CONFIRMATION OF ROSENWORCEL, SOHN TO FEDERAL
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

Senator Maria Cantwell

Chair

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Roger Wicker

Ranking Member

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 230 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States, and the undersigned organizations, we write to convey our strong support for the nominations of Jessica Rosenworcel and Gigi B. Sohn to serve as chair and commissioner, respectively, of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). We urge the committee to report the nominations to the full Senate favorably and promptly. At a time when access to reliable, diverse news and information, as well as affordable broadband and communications, is paramount, a fully staffed FCC is a top priority for the nation and for the constituencies we represent. Both Ms. Rosenworcel and Ms. Sohn are exemplary nominees for their respective positions and should be swiftly confirmed.

Universal and affordable access to telecommunications services and diverse media enables vital communications with family, friends, and employers; provides access to invaluable health information, emergency services, social services, and education; and promotes participation in our 21st century democracy and economy. Our coalition is committed to ensuring that media and telecommunications policy affirms and extends our nation's longstanding commitment to civil rights.

Ms. Rosenworcel's direct experience with the commission, which includes nine years at the agency, and most recently as acting chair, demonstrates she is particularly well-positioned to lead the FCC at this pivotal time. Under her leadership, the FCC successfully implemented several time-sensitive and nationally important programs to address the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Emergency Broadband Benefit, which offers monthly financial

support to low-income households. Throughout her career, Ms. Sohn has dedicated herself to the public interest, whether through her service on the Presidential Advisory Commission on the Public Interest Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters, her advocacy for policies that promote diversity and competition in the non-profit sector, or her time at the FCC as a senior counselor to the chairman.

Both nominees have shown they will establish a collaborative process and dialogue with the civil rights community as well as consult with the community members who are often left out of commission deliberations, including people of color, people with disabilities, low-income communities, incarcerated individuals, and other marginalized communities. In addition, both nominees would bring diversity to the commission. If confirmed, Ms. Rosenworcel would be the FCC's first permanent female chair and Ms. Sohn would be the commission's first openly LGBTQ commissioner.

Without confirmation of both nominees to these positions this year, the FCC will be left with only three commissioners. The need for swift action on these nominations is therefore critical. After nine months without a working majority, the FCC has a significant workload before it. The civil rights agenda at the FCC requires rapid, focused attention. Congress has now adopted the Affordable Connectivity Program, an improved, permanent version of the Emergency Broadband Benefit, and the commission will need to move quickly to implement this program and ensure that all the commission's programs for low-income people are more effective and easier for their beneficiaries to use. Other civil rights priorities include finishing the congressionally mandated 2018 Quadrennial Review this year; completing the next review that will start immediately in 2022; implementing Congress' directive to collect equal employment opportunity data in this sector; and a long-delayed proceeding addressing the dysfunctional market and unjust practices in incarcerated communications.

There is a tremendous overlap between media and telecommunications policies and civil rights, and the FCC's leaders must apply that understanding in setting the commission's agenda. To that end, we urge the committee to discuss with the nominees the importance of placing civil rights at the center of the commission's agenda and to press them to create an Office of Civil Rights to ensure every aspect of the agency's docket is consistent with our nation's highest values. Moreover, the FCC is in a unique position to address privacy in the industries it oversees. Processing of personal data should promote equity and justice as it enhances safety, economic opportunity, and convenience for all.

Ms. Rosenworcel and Ms. Sohn are highly qualified, possess deep knowledge of the challenges faced by disadvantaged populations, and have a demonstrated commitment to collaboration with civil rights stakeholders. For these reasons, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation should move quickly to report these nominees favorably to the full Senate. Should you have any questions, please contact Leadership Conference Media/Telecommunications Task Force Co-Chair Cheryl Leanza, United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry, at cleanza@alhmail.com or Bertram Lee, Jr., media/tech counsel, at lee@civilrights.org.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

A. Philip Randolph Institute

AFL-CIO

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Teachers

Andrew Goodman Foundation, Inc.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Center for Disability Rights

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Communications Workers of America

Crescent City Media Group

Equality California

Feminist Majority Foundation

Hispanic Federation

Japanese American Citizens League

League of Conservation Voters

MediaJustice

National Black Justice Coalition

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans

National Fair Housing Alliance

Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

Public Citizen

Silver State Equality-Nevada

Southern Echo Inc.

The Trevor Project

United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry

February 1, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science and Transportation
Russell Senate Office Building 254
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science and Transportation
Dirksen Senate Office Building 512
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

We write to offer our strong support for the swift confirmation of Gigi Sohn to serve on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Recent reports have indicated the Senate Commerce Committee intends to move this critical nominee soon and we wholeheartedly support those efforts. We also write to strongly condemn the coordinated personal attacks that are stoking dangerous homophobia over this barrier breaking nominee who will be the first openly LGBTQ+ commissioner in history.¹ We urge the committee to reject these bigoted attacks and demonstrate its support for the LGBTQ+ community by swiftly advancing Ms. Sohn's nomination in February.

Importantly, the FCC has been without a full slate of commissioners for more than two years—a historic length of time for this agency. The FCC needs to be at full capacity to best address the breadth of critical issues before it. Multiple challenges and concerns have been raised about the accuracy of the FCC maps that will control billions of infrastructure dollars Congress has appropriated to the states. Only with a full slate of commissioners can the FCC ensure the agency can work deliberately to resolve these challenges to ensure fairness and equity in the distribution of public investments. Furthermore, a full slate of five commissioners is needed for the Commission to adopt robust digital discrimination rules by the Congressionally-mandated November 2023 deadline. A bipartisan Congress charged the FCC with addressing digital discrimination with rules and numerous studies have shown that broadband access is not being distributed equally and that systemic discrimination has occurred. This digital discrimination must not continue. Broadband access for millions of Americans, including rural, low-income and those from marginalized communities stands to benefit from an FCC that has its full slate of commissioners so it can fulfill this Congressional directive to promote equal access to broadband infrastructure. Moreover, the Commission reportedly cannot enforce an FCC proposal to fine carriers \$200 million for failing to protect consumer privacy. Other dockets—from multiple media diversity proceedings to major pending transactions to modernization of universal service—await five commissioners to vote.

For 30 years, Ms. Sohn has demonstrated a strong commitment to the public interest and to public service. As Chairwoman Rosenworcel stated this past week “Gigi Sohn is a nominee that knows this agency well.” She has consistently fought for everyone’s right to access communications services regardless of income, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual

¹ See Karl Bode, "[New Dumb Attack Against Gigi Sohn Tries To Shame Her For Being On The EFF's Board](#)," TechDirt (Jan. 27, 2023); see also [Senator Markey statement](#) (Jan. 27, 2023) ("It is outrageous that the FCC has gone without a full slate of commissioners while the nomination of the supremely qualified and prepared nominee, Gigi Sohn, languishes amidst lies and homophobia.")

orientation, geography, or political viewpoint. This work embodies the FCC's mission and makes Ms. Sohn a highly qualified nominee. With so many critical issues before the agency, it is imperative that the Senate make Ms. Sohn's confirmation a top priority. We are happy to provide any assistance to the committee that would facilitate swift action on this nomination because as Chairwoman Rosenworcel herself said best the FCC is an "agency that was built to operate with five and I hope that happens sooner rather than later."

Sincerely,

Common Cause

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Demand Progress

National Digital Inclusion Alliance

Electronic Frontier Foundation

Public Knowledge

Fight for the Future

United Church of Christ Media Justice
Ministry

Free Press Action

Open Letter to the U.S. Senate: Confirm Gigi Sohn to the FCC

As a media entrepreneur and the only Black owner/operator of “Big 4” network affiliated broadcast TV stations in the U.S., as well as the owner of traditional and digital media platforms, including The Weather Channel, TheGrio.com, Local Now, JusticeCentral.TV, Comedy.TV, Cars.TV, HBCUGo.TV, Pets.TV, Sports.TV, Recipe.TV and many others, I take very seriously the role of the Federal Communications Commission in promoting diversity, supporting localism, and protecting freedom of speech. That is why I am supporting Gigi Sohn to be confirmed as an FCC Commissioner.

It should not be the case in 2021 that Black Americans, who comprise approximately 12% of the U.S. population, own a majority interest in less than 2% of full-power broadcast TV stations. I should not be the only Black American who owns and operates major network affiliated stations. The FCC is charged with promoting diversity of ownership and viewpoints yet has fallen short of achieving a truly diverse media landscape. Gigi Sohn understands and is a champion against this inequity.

Over many years, she has worked nonstop to promote greater competition and more minority ownership in broadcasting. As a commissioner, she would have the tools to improve ownership diversity among FCC licensees. As the first openly LGBTQ person in history nominated to the FCC, Gigi truly understands on a personal level why diversity and inclusion for all Americans matters. Please note that Mignon Clyburn, the first Black woman ever to serve as acting Chair of the FCC, understands the job extremely well and supports Gigi’s confirmation, and so do I.

As an owner of local broadcast TV stations, I understand the critical importance to the health and safety of our citizens, as well as to our democracy, of robust local broadcast news organizations. According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, most Americans prefer to get their local news from local broadcasters. The FCC is supposed to promote localism but often fails to protect local broadcast affiliates against abuses from much larger companies and industries. Gigi Sohn understands this innately. For years, she has advocated for restoring a more reasonable balance of power between local broadcasters and major conglomerates in the communications ecosystem. She will use her seat on the FCC to bring the “local” back to localism.

Finally, as someone who speaks out against injustice, racism, unfairness, and corruption wherever and whenever I see it, I value our American freedom of

speech, and Gigi Sohn will help protect our rights as American citizens. Whether fighting for an open Internet or for the free speech rights of conservatives with whom she disagrees, Gigi advocates for all people to speak and be heard. That is why multiple conservatives who disagree with her on a lot of issues publicly support Gigi's confirmation to the FCC. They have seen her fight tirelessly for diversity and freedom of speech. The Senate should act quickly to confirm Gigi Sohn to the FCC. She will do a great job for our country!!!

Continued Success,

Byron Allen ■

November 29, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science and Transportation
Russell Senate Office Building 254
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member on
Commerce, Science and Transportation
Dirksen Senate Office Building 512
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

We write to offer our strong support for the nomination and swift confirmation of Gigi Sohn to serve as Commissioner to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Although we don't agree with Gigi on every communications policy matter, she is a thoughtful and pragmatic leader who is willing to work across the aisle and across the ideological spectrum to make progress to ensure that all US households have robust broadband. She has helped improve the quality of life for rural underserved communities with her work on rural broadband deployment and adoption policies.

Ms. Sohn regularly works to forge relationships and alliances with stakeholders across the aisle and with diverse community leaders. When industry has sought the involvement of someone to represent consumer interests, they seek out Gigi first because of her credibility and fairness. For example, she served as Co-Chair of the Broadband Internet Technology Advisory Group (BITAG), which convened network engineers and technical experts from industry and academia to examine and develop a consensus on internet network management practices. The purpose of BITAG was to assist in the creation of acceptable industry standards, as opposed to heavy handed enforcement and regulation.

Over Ms. Sohn's 30 years of experience in telecommunications, broadband and technology policy has shown she has a strong commitment to the First Amendment. She has regularly worked with organizations representing conservative media interests to ensure all voices and views are heard both as a consumer advocate and as a government official. The FCC will make critical decisions to maintain a competitive and open media environment. Her consistent and long held support of diversity in viewpoints in media will serve all voices well.

We are confident that Ms. Sohn will take her pragmatic and collaborative skills to her new role at the FCC as a commissioner if confirmed by the Senate.

Sincerely,

Hilda Gay Legg - Former USDA Rural
Development State Director for Kentucky
and the Former Administrator for RUS

Chad Rupe - managing member of Rural
America Strategies LLC

Chip Pickering – CEO of INCOMPAS,
Former Republican Congressman from
Mississippi

Daniel Linville - West Virginia House of
Delegates - Chairman of the Committee on
Technology and Infrastructure

Judson Hill - Former Republican Georgia
State Senator



November 15, 2021

Senator Maria Cantwell
Chair
Senate Commerce Committee
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce Committee
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker,

On behalf of the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition, the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA), and the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong support for Jessica Rosenworcel to serve as the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Gigi Sohn to serve as a Commissioner on the FCC, and Alan Davidson to serve as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

The SHLB Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit advocacy organization that strives to close the digital divide by promoting open, affordable, high-quality broadband for anchor institutions and their communities. SHLB has over 300 members from across the US, including hundreds of commercial and nonprofit organizations who support our mission.

NDIA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and advances digital equity by supporting community programs and equipping policymakers to act. Working collaboratively with digital inclusion practitioners, NDIA advocates for broadband access, tech devices, digital skills training, and tech support. NDIA currently represents 625 affiliate organizations located in 46 states.

We urge the Senate Commerce Committee to advance the nomination of Rosenworcel for an additional term without delay. Her impressive range of work and extensive experience as a commissioner on the FCC makes her well suited to serve as its chair. She is committed to closing the “homework gap” and has overseen the rollout and implementation of several critical federal programs that make technology more accessible and affordable for Americans, including the Emergency Broadband Benefit program and the Emergency Connectivity Fund – the most significant federal programs yet to address internet affordability. By taking a lead role on spectrum policy reforms and expanding affordable broadband access to households, schools, libraries, and healthcare providers, Rosenworcel has demonstrated outstanding leadership as acting FCC Chair.



We also urge the Senate Commerce Committee to advance the nomination of Sohn for Commissioner on the FCC without delay. Sohn has been a long-time advocate for internet freedom, consumer protection, and digital inclusivity. Though steadfast in her principles, she has a deep and realistic understanding of the digital marketplace and its practical and economic challenges. In turn, she recognizes the need to work with others from all sides of every issue to achieve a more open, affordable, and privacy-protective communications landscape. Accordingly, she is well-respected by technology policy stakeholders on both sides of the political aisle as well as by for-profit and nonprofit institutions. Sohn possesses an unmatched level of knowledge, leadership, and experience in her field, making her extremely well qualified to serve as an FCC Commissioner.

Finally, we urge the Senate Commerce Committee to advance the nomination of Davidson for Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Administrator of NTIA without delay. Given his vast expertise in technology policy and digital access issues, Davidson will be a steady and effective leader at the NTIA. He has worked in policy areas such as free expression, content regulation, encryption, and copyright, while maintaining a commitment to the public interest. His experience and skills make him well suited for his prospective role at the NTIA.

The FCC and NTIA have and will continue to play an extremely important role in digital policy — particularly given the passing of the Infrastructure Expansion Act of 2021 and the growing influx of federal money for broadband and digital inclusion programs. As such, strong and effective leadership at the FCC and NTIA is crucial to ensuring a more efficient and equitable digital future for America. We thus urge the Senate Commerce Committee to promptly confirm the nominations of Rosenworcel for FCC Chair, Sohn for FCC Commissioner, and Davidson for NTIA Assistant Secretary of Commerce and NTIA Administrator.

Thank you,

Valerie Oliver
Alaska State Library

ROBERT W STEWART
Asbury Park Free Public Library

Mike Wassenaar
Alliance for Community Media

Jason Hardebeck
Baltimore City Mayor's Office

Alan Inouye
American Library Association

Andrew Jay Schwartzman
Benton Institute for Broadband & Society



Sunne Wright McPeak
California Emerging Technology Fund

Stephen D Rau
Channelford Associates Inc

Shumonte Cooper
Christ is Relief Inc

Elisabeth Perez
City of Portland

Alexandria Felton
City of San Jose

Dave Sevick
Computer Reach

Tom Reid
Connecting Appalachia

Bill Callahan
Connect Your Community Institute

Christine Fox
CoSN

Kimberly Friends
CSM Consulting, Inc.

Erin Carr-Jordan
Digital Equity Institute

Pat Millen
E2D, Inc.

Hank Lawrence
Educational Consulting Associates

TERI LAWRENCE
Educational Professional Services

Donna Rattley Washington
Education SuperHighway

Winston E. Himsworth
E-Rate Central

Shirley Bauer
E-Rate & Educational Services, LLC

Mary Jo Sagnella
E-RATE ONLINE

John Chrastka
EveryLibrary Institute

Mai Moore
EYEJ: Empowering Youth, Exploring Justice

Davis Park
Front Porch

Burt Lum
Hawaii Broadband Hui

Shawn Daugherty
Human-I-T

W LAZONE GRAYS
IBSA, Inc.

Erin Mote
InnovateEDU

Christopher Mitchell
Institute for Local Self-Reliance



Gwin Grimes
Jeff Davis County Library

Carrie Coogan
Kansas City Public Library

Michelle Harati
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Sulaiman Kenyatta
Los Angeles County Economic Development
Corporation

Josh Chisom
Lucky Thirteen Design & Consulting LLC

Brandon Forester
MediaJustice

Joseph Sawasky
Merit Network, Michigan

Katherine Messier
Mobile Beacon

Gina Dircks
Mobile Citizen, a Voqal Project

Nishal Mohan
mohuman

Mariel Triggs
MuralNet

Susan Corbett
National Digital Equity Center

Angela Siefer
National Digital Inclusion Alliance

Amanda Bergson-Shilcock
National Skills Coalition

Tracy Olson
NC Telehealth Network Association

Amy Sample Ward
NTEN

Burton B. Cohen
Office of Consumer Counsel

Amy Philipson
Pacific Northwest Gigapop

Barry Glicklich
Partners Bridging the Digital Divide

Jenna Leventoff
Public Knowledge

Marci L. White
Redbud Telecom Consulting

Jesse Bradley
Right Here, Right Now Project

John Windhausen
Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband
(SHLB) Coalition

Clayton Banks
Silicon Harlem

Jeannene Hurley
Sound E-rate, Inc.

Coree Kelly
Southern Oregon Education Service District



Julia Fallon
State Educational Technology Directors
Association (SETDA)

Andy Stutzman
Technology Learning Collaborative

JJ McGrath
Texoma Communications, LLC

Samantha Schartman
The Marconi Society

Robert Plymale
Thundercloud, Inc.

Susan Benton
Urban Libraries Council

Roger Timmerman
UTOPIA Fiber

Jessamyn West
Vermont Mutual Aid Society

Kristen Perry
Voqal

Jennifer Evans
West Hartford Community Interactive

Tessa Michaelson Schmidt
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

November 17, 2021

Dear Senators Sinema and Kelly,

We write to convey the rapidly growing urgency to confirm Jessica Rosenworcel as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) permanent chair and Gigi Sohn as a fifth commissioner. The FCC will have a 2-1 Republican majority if the Senate does not confirm Rosenworcel and Sohn by the end of the year. The Senate must act quickly.

Arizona needs a fully functional FCC to help close the digital divide, particularly acute in our state. In eight of Arizona's fifteen counties, more than two-thirds of households lack access to high-speed broadband.¹ Low-income families, Native Americans, and people of color are disproportionately disconnected, compounding grave inequalities that were made worse during the pandemic.

Broadband access is a significant problem for families living on reservations in Arizona. Tribes are some of the least connected communities in the United States, and eighteen percent of tribal reservation residents have no internet access at home.² The 22 federally recognized Tribes in Arizona face unique connectivity challenges at a time when broadband access has proven essential for distance learning, telehealth appointments, meetings over video platforms, connecting to remote work, and much more.

Given the legislative calendar and the diminishing number of days for hearings and confirmation votes, we have reached a critical point to guarantee the agency charged with ensuring affordable communications access can do its work. Failing to confirm a permanent chair and a fifth commissioner leaves the FCC less than fully operational and limits its capacity to most effectively:

- Finish long-overdue reforms to the FCC's outdated and inaccurate broadband maps, which are used to direct federal infrastructure investments;
- Strengthen the Lifeline program, which helps low-income households afford telephone and internet service;
- Create rules to make our nation's communications networks more reliable and resilient to natural disasters and other threats;
- Guide the deployment of new broadband infrastructure built with federal dollars to make it as effective as possible;
- Protect consumers and workers from anticompetitive, job-killing mergers in the telecommunications sector;
- Approve emergency waivers for E-rate funded infrastructure to be opened up for remote education; and

¹ <https://www.azcentral.com/story/money/business/tech/2021/07/07/broadband-access-arizona/47204697/>

² https://aipi.asu.edu/sites/default/files/tribal_digital_divide_stimulus_bill_advocacy.pdf

- Meet the challenge of the 2018 Broadcast Ownership Quadrennial Review and halt the dangerous trend towards consolidated ownership in broadcasting by reasserting principles of localism, competition and ownership diversity.

The FCC has the singular ability to ensure affordable and reliable communications for all. The pandemic showed us the unshakable image of children doing their classwork from fast-food parking lots using borrowed WiFi. We cannot let those students or any family wait any longer. If we are to reach the goal of having a country where everyone, no matter their address or size of their bank account, has affordable access to high-speed internet, we need a full commission immediately. We urge Congress not to lose any more time and to confirm Jessica Rosenworcel and Gigi Sohn by the end of the year.

Sincerely,

Cat's in the Cradle New Life Sanctuary
Common Sense
Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.
LISC Phoenix
Native Public Media
NTEN
Red Rock Mountain Studios LLC
Rural Arizona Action
Swinging Sixties Productions
Terabyte Media LLC



November 11, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Recommendation for Confirmation of Nominated FCC Commissioners Jessica Rosenworcel and Gigi Sohn

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

The Rural Wireless Association (“RWA”)¹ is writing to recommend that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation confirm the nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel as Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) and move quickly to schedule a confirmation hearing for Gigi Sohn as an FCC Commissioner.

Both of these nominees are extremely qualified for their positions. As Acting Chair of the FCC for the past 9 months, Rosenworcel has been a good steward and a strong advocate for continued investment and innovation in wired and wireless broadband networks. Rosenworcel has also been supportive of Congress’ goal to build next generation networks in unserved and underserved areas and to close the digital divide. RWA believes that, with a fully staffed Commission, Rosenworcel can be instrumental in directing the Commission’s full attention towards building and maintaining networks in rural America to keep all Americans connected.

Ms. Sohn is also more than qualified to be confirmed as an FCC Commissioner. For over 30 years, Ms. Sohn has relentlessly served the public interest and helped to keep Big Tech in check. She is an advocate for all consumers, both urban and rural, and has worked tirelessly to close the digital divide and to ensure that diverse voices (including all rural stakeholders) are heard and protected. She previously served as an advisor to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and in that role Ms. Sohn advised the chairman on a multitude of telecommunications, internet, and media issues. RWA has worked with Ms. Sohn on issues ranging from universal service reform to ensuring spectrum auctions are conducted in a manner that allows small and rural carriers to gain access to spectrum to serve rural communities. Ms. Sohn has worked with RWA to ensure that VoLTE roaming is implemented fairly so that rural consumers do not get left behind. Her nomination also speaks to President Biden’s desire to be inclusive and to promote diversity across all sectors of the federal government as Sohn will be the first openly LGBTQ+ Commissioner.

¹ RWA is a 501(c)(6) trade association dedicated to promoting wireless opportunities for rural telecommunications companies who serve consumers who, reside, work, or travel in rural America. RWA’s members are small businesses serving or seeking to serve secondary, tertiary, and rural markets. Each of RWA’s member companies serves fewer than 100,000 subscribers.



With the legislative calendar year coming to an end, its becoming more likely that the Commission will be shorthanded by the new year. Given the influx of broadband-related initiatives being passed and proposed by Congress, it is in the country's best interest to keep the Commission functioning fully staffed with five commissioners. RWA eagerly awaits the confirmation of Rosenworcel as FCC Chairwoman and a scheduled date for Sohn's confirmation hearing this year.

Respectfully submitted,

RURAL WIRELESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

By: */s/ Carri Bennet*

Carri Bennet, General Counsel
Stephen Sharbaugh, Legislative and Policy Analyst
5185 MacArthur Blvd., NW, Suite 729
Washington, DC 20016
(202) 857-4519
legal@ruralwireless.org



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www.socket.net • 1-800-SOCKET-3

November 4, 2021

The Honorable Roy Blunt
US Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Re: FCC Nomination of Gigi Sohn

Dear Senator Blunt:

I am writing to express Socket Telecom's strong support for the nomination of Gigi Sohn to the Federal Communications Commission. Socket has a long history as a competitive telecom and Internet provider in Missouri, and Ms. Sohn has worked tirelessly throughout her entire career to advance competition and consumer choice in telecommunications and broadband.

The success of our company was made possible through the landmark and bipartisan Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Act's market-opening provisions allowed us to bring Missouri consumers and small businesses competitive options, pricing and service, many for the first time. In 2011, Socket began to expand its reach by building a brand new fiber-optic network to reach homes and businesses in rural Callaway County and Fulton. We have been expanding this fiber network ever since, now reaching 18 counties in Missouri, and as a result, thousands of customers now enjoy reliable, competitive high-speed internet service delivered over Socket's Fiber-Optic Network.

Today, Socket employs approximately 160 people, with offices across Missouri. We're proud to be Missouri's local competitive telecommunications provider, and we are working tirelessly to bring state-of-the-art technology and friendly, local support to as many homes and businesses as possible.

Gigi Sohn has been a friend to the competitive telecom and Internet industry. As a public interest and consumer advocate, she has been a steadfast champion for competition as the best path, and we have no doubt she will continue to do so at the Commission. It is critical for the Commission to have its full complement of Commissioners confirmed as soon as possible so that the issues in front of the FCC today—like broadband mapping—are implemented quickly to ensure that broadband funding goes to those areas that are most in need of new network deployment. This is an issue of significant importance as Socket has been seeking funding for Missouri communities that have been left behind.

We urge you to vote to confirm Gigi Sohn as Commissioner for the Federal Communications Commission. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carson Coffman', written over a white background.

Carson Coffman
President

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NENA Statement on FCC Nominations

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 (0 Comments)

Posted by: Chris Nussman



On October 26, President Biden appointed Jessica Rosenworcel to Chair the Federal Communications Commission and Gigi Sohn to serve as the fifth Commissioner. NENA is proud to support both of their nominations. Nominees Rosenworcel and Sohn have shown deep dedication to improving the 9-1-1 emergency system and a commitment to public safety during their careers. NENA appreciates their tremendous leadership and encourages the Committee and Senate to vote in support of both their nominations.

As Acting Chair, Jessica Rosenworcel has been a champion for Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) and has worked tirelessly as Commissioner to help ensure FCC-regulated providers are capable of meeting the needs of public safety. In addition to pushing for improved requirements and industry accountability in carrying out the requirements of Kari's Law and RAY BAUM'S Act, she has been an indefatigable champion for improved network resiliency and supported essential federal funding for the NG9-1-1 transition.

During Gigi Sohn's tenure at the FCC, her work not only improved requirements for 9-1-1 caller location accuracy, but also requirements for text-to-9-1-1 — an essential tool for millions of Americans in need every day. Her work also helped elevate the need to tackle issues of funding and deploying NG9-1-1 in public-safety answering points nationwide. We look forward to working with Sohn as she advances the Commission's work to fund "middle mile" internet infrastructure that will serve as an essential foundation to ensure underserved and rural communities have access to NG9-1-1.

We at NENA look forward to working with both nominees on issues pressing to the public safety community.

Add Comment

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Login with LinkedIn (<https://ws.yourmembership.com/Ams/SocialOAuth/linkedin?Continue=%2fAms%2fFinalizeLogin%2flinkedin%3fReturnUrl%3dhttps://www.nena.org/news/588595/NENA-Statement-on-FCC-Nominations.htm>)

OR



ALARM INDUSTRY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

November 30, 2021

Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

Roger Wicker
Ranking Republican
Senate Committee on Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Republican Wicker,

The Alarm Industry Communications Committee (AICC) strongly supports the nominations of Jessica Rosenworcel as Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Gigi Sohn for FCC commissioner.

Based upon our observations and experiences in working with both nominees, we have found them to fully understand and recognize the key role that telecommunications plays in helping to ensure public safety. They have both proven to be very accessible and willing to listen and learn how issues before the FCC would impact the ability of alarm monitoring companies to respond to emergencies experienced by individuals and businesses as a result of a break in, fire, carbon monoxide incident or in the case of seniors a health emergency that requires the dispatch of emergency responders.

They have both demonstrated strong support for consumer rights while at the same time being willing to understand the concerns of the small business-dominated alarm industry which is a key partner in the public safety network. An added benefit is that they both have a long history of working on telecommunications issues both inside and outside the FCC, which would make them immediately ready to address the myriad of issues before the Commission.

We urge the Senate to expeditiously take up and confirm the nominations of both these highly qualified candidates.

Sincerely,

Lou Fiore
Chairman Alarm Industry Communications Committee



Contact Bill Signer at signer@carmengroup.com or at (202) 515-2345 with questions.



November 8th, 2021

The Honorable Cynthia Lummis
United States Senate
100 East B St
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Dear Senator Lummis:

I am writing to support the nomination of Gigi Sohn to the Federal Communications Commission. As you know, Visionary Broadband is a small Wyoming-based broadband company that is able to serve consumers here due to the existence of long-standing competitive policies at the FCC.

Throughout Ms. Sohn's public and private sector career she has been a supporter of small, competitive broadband companies regarding the many policy debates impacting smaller carriers. From the policy battles around Special Access to the Forbearance Petitions involving the Unbundled Network Elements (UNE) regime, Ms. Sohn has been an effective advocate. Our company has been able to offer more efficient and less expensive service to consumers in Wyoming due to our ability to compete in this once monopoly-dominated market.

Ms. Sohn is a respected lawyer and previously served in a key role at the FCC under a former Chairman. She has an excellent understanding of the complex issues facing the FCC today and will be able to hit the ground running at the commission. I hope you will be able to be supportive of her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Worthen", written over a horizontal line.

Brian Worthen
CEO, Visionary Broadband



700 N. Central Avenue, 6th Floor
Glendale, CA 91203

December 9, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
The United States Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on
Communications, Media, and Broadband
The United States Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
The United States Senate
Washington, DC

The Honorable John Thune
Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on
Communications, Media, and Broadband
The United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Chairmen Cantwell and Luján, and Ranking Members Wicker and Thune,

As the CEO of one of the few minority-owned-and-managed media companies in the country, I offer my full support for Gigi Sohn's confirmation to be FCC Commissioner and urge the Senate Commerce Committee to confirm her nomination without hesitation.

Latino-owned Fuse Media is a multicultural focused, multiplatform entertainment company that serves its millennial and Gen-Z audience through a portfolio of streaming and television brands. With a mandate to keep inclusion and representation at the forefront of all creative and business decisions, I am proud to state that 100% of Fuse original series include Latinos and people of color. But we cannot do this job alone and, as a champion of diversity and inclusion in media and media ownership, Ms. Sohn has proven herself to be a much-needed advocate for communities that continue to be underrepresented in media, despite their prevalence in society.

We know that media plays a critical role in the way we perceive ourselves and others, yet underrepresented communities still struggle to find content that genuinely, accurately, and respectfully reflects their cultures and experiences. While U.S. Census data show Latinos comprising nearly 20% of the US population, the most recent Annenberg Inclusion Initiative study revealed that across media, only about 5% of speaking or named characters during 2019 featured a Hispanic or Latino actor. Many of those roles tend to reinforce negative stereotypes.

It therefore is imperative that smaller, independent media companies committed to equal and positive presentation of underrepresented minorities are given room and resources to thrive in an increasingly consolidated media landscape. Ms. Sohn has proven her commitment to ensuring such equity.



Fuse Media believes that audiences and consumers will benefit from Gigi Sohn's confirmation as FCC Commissioner. Her commitment to diversity of ownership and viewpoints, along with her support for independent voices, will allow entertainment providers and companies of all sizes to be on a more level playing field, ultimately creating opportunities for more representation and inclusion in media.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miguel Roggero".

Miguel Roggero
Chief Executive Officer

cc:

Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Brian Schatz
Senator Ed Markey
Senator Gary Peters
Senator Tammy Baldwin
Senator Tammy Duckworth
Senator Jon Tester
Senator Kyrsten Sinema
Senator Jacky Rosen
Senator John Hickenlooper
Senator Raphael Warnock

Senator Roy Blunt
Senator Ted Cruz
Senator Deb Fischer
Senator Jerry Moran
Senator Dan Sullivan
Senator Marsha Blackburn
Senator Todd Young
Senator Mike Lee
Senator Ron Johnson
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Senator Rick Scott
Senator Cynthia Lummis

December 6, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Re: FCC and NTIA Nominations

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

As technology and telecommunications leaders who are working to connect consumers and businesses to critical communications services across our great nation that are used to support every economic sector, including agriculture, education, health care, and manufacturing, we are writing today to express our strong support for expeditiously confirming President Biden’s nominees to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, Ms. Gigi Sohn, and Mr. Alan Davidson have demonstrated through their many years of service in the technology and telecommunications sector, that they have the expertise and requisite skills required for their positions. With almost a decade of service as a Commissioner, now-Chairwoman Rosenworcel has effectively managed the FCC during a global pandemic and has implemented key emergency programs to connect students and families to broadband. Ms. Sohn is a well-known public advocate and thought leader with thirty years of experience who has focused her work on ensuring that modern communications services are available to every consumer. As a senior executive in the tech industry, Mr. Davidson has managed complex matters and has been a leader on open and accessible policies, enabling modern communications technology options in the U.S.

Both the FCC and NTIA are important agencies for advancing the nation’s broadband and communications connectivity goals, and they are in need of their full and permanent leadership to fulfill their missions as soon as possible. We urge you to move their nominations forward and confirm them.

Sincerely,

Douglas Denney
VP Legal & Regulatory
Allstream
Vancouver, WA

Chris Levendos
Executive Vice President and Chief
Operating Officer—Fiber
Crown Castle
Houston, TX

Jeff Blum
Senior Vice President, Public Policy and
Government Affairs
DISH
Englewood, CO

Gregory A. Aymar
Chief Executive Officer
FiberComm
Sioux City, IA

Kurt Van Wagenen
President and Chief Executive Officer
FirstLight Fiber
Albany, NY

Gary Watts
Chief Executive Officer
Fuse.Cloud
Jackson, MS

Michael B Galvin
EVP & General Counsel
Granite Telecommunications, LLC
Quincy, MA

Fletcher Kittredge
Chief Executive Officer
GWI
Biddeford, ME

Edward E. Hilliary, Jr.
Managing Partner
Hilliary Communications, LLC
Lawton, OK

Jerrold Reimer
President and CEO
IdeaTek
Buhler, KS

Edward J. O'Hara
Chief Executive Officer
Inteliquent
Chicago, IL

Andoni Economou
Chief Operating Officer
MetTel
New York, NY

Dane Jasper
Chief Executive Offer
Sonic Telecom
Santa Rosa, CA

Rebecca H. Sommi
VP Vendor Management
Specrotel Holding Company LLC
Neptune, NJ

Chet Kanojia
Chief Executive Officer
Starry, Inc
Boston, MA

Joshua Broder
Chief Executive Officer
Tilson
Portland, ME

Kenny Gunderman
Chief Executive Officer
Uniti Group, Inc.
Little Rock, AR

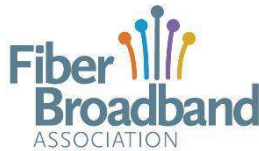
Brian Worthen
Chief Executive Officer
Visionary Broadband
Gillette, WY

Ray LaChance
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
ZenFi Networks
New York, NY

Ted Gilliam
General Counsel, Strategic and Regional
Sales
Zayo
Boulder, CO



Computer & Communications
Industry Association
Tech Advocacy Since 1972



November 23, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
254 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Acting-Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel for Chairman, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Nomination of Ms. Gigi B. Sohn for Commissioner, FCC

Nomination of Mr. Alan Davidson for Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

The undersigned communications industry trade organizations write in support of President Biden’s nominees for the FCC and NTIA and urge their swift consideration by your committee and final confirmation by the Senate.

The telecommunications industry is an important part of the US economy accounting for over 2% of Gross Domestic Product. The telecommunications sector is responsible for as many as 10 million jobs and trillions of dollars of investment. Decisions of the FCC and NTIA impact every American consumer.

The recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) gives both agencies important roles. Additionally, both agencies are in the process of administering programs authorized through the CARES Act of 2020 and American Rescue Plan of 2021 Act which include several programs to address pandemic related telecommunications issues. A full complement of five FCC Commissioners and a permanent Administrator for NTIA is vital to implement these programs and ensure progress on critical initiatives for our country, including broadband accessibility and affordability, roll out of 5G, and securing telecommunications networks.

The Administration has nominated Ms. Rosenworcel, Ms. Sohn and Mr. Davidson. Each of these nominees is eminently qualified to hold the positions for which they have been nominated and possess the academic background, the qualifications, and expertise to serve as leaders on telecommunications policy.

Given the once in a generation level of the investment the government is making in broadband to advance our nation, we urge the Senate to move quickly to confirm nominees for these key positions.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Matthew Schruers

President

CCIA

/s/ Gary Bolton

President & CEO

Fiber Broadband Association

/s/ Chip Pickering

CEO

INCOMPAS



Communications Workers of America

Chris Shelton | *President*

Government Affairs Department

Dan Mauer | *Director*

November 15, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker,

On behalf of the members and officers of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), I am writing in strong support of the nominations of Jessica Rosenworcel to serve as Chair of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Gigi Sohn for Commissioner. Not only will they continue to lead the FCC into the future by encouraging the equitable deployment of next-generation broadband networks, they will also ensure that the concerns of workers and consumers are the top priority.

As Commissioner and Acting Chair at the FCC, Rosenworcel has fought steadily to ensure access to telecommunications services for all Americans. For example, Rosenworcel's work has drawn attention to problems with the FCC's collection of data on broadband access. She has advocated that in order to close the digital divide, we must have access to broadband maps and data that are accurate and reliable. This ensures that when broadband access is expanded, it reaches all communities, not just some. Further, Rosenworcel has been a champion for the protection and expansion of the Lifeline program, which connects low-income households to critical telecommunications services. She understands that these programs are especially important during public health and economic crises like those taking place right now.

Beyond her understanding of the policy issues, Rosenworcel has intimate knowledge of the families and workers behind the policy because she takes the time to understand both. Prior to the pandemic, Rosenworcel was an advocate for closing the Homework Gap by addressing the issue that millions of students take homework home from school but don't have the internet access to complete it. She has been working on creative solutions to this issue for years, and since the pandemic has widened this gap, this work remains a top priority. Additionally, she has engaged CWA members in dialogue to provide perspective on the telecommunications issues that are hitting the communities we serve the hardest.

Throughout her career, Gigi Sohn has been a staunch advocate for the expansion of affordable internet access. During the T-Mobile/Sprint merger, Sohn was a key ally in the fight to protect the jobs of the working families who ultimately ended up being harmed by the merger. She believes in fighting to ensure that workers are protected first and foremost. Additionally, she supports efforts to hold broadband service providers accountable through state regulatory oversight. Her voice, experience and expertise are just what the FCC needs.

The leadership exhibited by these two women focus on greater opportunity, accessibility, and affordability in our communications services, especially broadband services. Further, their tireless advocacy on behalf of workers and consumers has never been more important. I strongly urge you to swiftly advance the nominations of Jessica

Rosenworcel and Gigi Sohn to serve as the next Chair and Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as they are exactly the kind of leaders we need in this moment.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Mauer".

Dan Mauer
Director of Government Affairs
Communications Workers of America (CWA)

November 30, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Re: Nomination of Gigi Sohn for Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

I write to strongly support the nomination of Gigi Sohn to serve as Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and urge the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to move her nomination forward expeditiously.

Ms. Sohn is extraordinarily qualified for this position. Her record reflects a long and distinguished career in technology, media and telecommunications policy as a consumer advocate, public servant and academic. In addition, she is widely recognized for her commitment to principle over partisanship and is deeply respected by industry, civil society groups, Republicans and Democrats.

More, Ms. Sohn has always been a strong defender of free speech and an advocate of robust, substantive debate. Our First Amendment is nonpartisan and has been respected by Republican and Democratic FCC commissioners alike. Ms. Sohn has an extensive record of writing and speaking in defense of free speech and as FCC Commissioner would uphold free expression by those with different views.

The FCC's work has never been more important for preserving a strong economy and strengthening America's global leadership. Until Ms. Sohn is confirmed, the absence of a full Commission will continue to hold the agency back from addressing the nation's most pressing communications policy issues. Ms. Sohn is a pragmatic, data-driven problem solver who understands what it takes to drive the future of work, education and ongoing innovation. Based on more than two decades of knowing Ms. Sohn, I am confident she will ask the critical questions and truly listen to the answers, regardless of whether they are consistent with her personal priorities.

Ms. Sohn has the qualifications of an FCC nominee that every Senator should be pleased and proud to confirm. I encourage you to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Shapiro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and last name "Shapiro" clearly distinguishable.

Gary Shapiro
President and CEO
Consumer Technology Association

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

November 12, 2021

Senator Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Pat Toomey
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mitt Romney
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Boozman
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tommy Tuberville
142 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Kennedy
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski, Toomey, Romney, Portman, Collins, Boozman, Tuberville, and Kennedy:

As a proud Republican, and Co-Chair of the Public Officials Committee of the Fiber Broadband Association in Washington, DC (representing 150 cities, towns, counties, and state agencies), I find myself in unfamiliar territory urging you to confirm Gigi Sohn, a member of the Democratic Party, as an FCC Commissioner.

I'm expressing strong support for Gigi Sohn because there's a lot at stake for our nation's economy. Nearly half of Americans can't easily participate in the digital economy because they live in areas unserved or underserved by broadband providers. Ms. Sohn's mastery of policy and her pragmatic approach will help expand broadband investment while helping to curb lip service from providers.

In the last few years, I've gotten to know Gigi Sohn as a charismatic and pragmatic leader in the telecommunications industry. I've found her to be thoughtful, thorough, prepared, and balanced. She not only understands how policy can impact our states and cities, but also how it can influence business and industry. **Ms. Sohn wants to see policy that spurs innovation and investment, as well as economic development and jobs.**


It should be noted that Big Telco is spending \$8 million a week in Washington to preserve the status quo, and has labeled Ms. Sohn as an "activist." They're concerned that should she be appointed to the FCC, providers will need to be more accountable to consumers, businesses, and taxpayers (who've subsidized their efforts with little in return). Frankly, that's exactly what the country needs to remain economically competitive in the digital age.

To achieve our national goals of expanding quality, affordable broadband service to all Americans, it will require an FCC Commissioner who can work collaboratively across party lines—and with industry, business, consumers, and local government. Gigi Sohn is that person.

I respectfully urge you and your Senate colleagues to confirm Gigi Sohn.

Please let me know if you'd like to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Bob Knight,
Commissioner &
Co-Chair, Public Officials Committee
Fiber Broadband Association, Washington, DC

Cc. Geoffrey Morris, Chairman, Ridgefield ECDC
Kimberly McKinley, Deputy Director, Utah Infrastructure Agency, Committee Co-Chair



Nov 10, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, &
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, &
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Cantwell and Wicker,

We, the undersigned public interest organizations, submit this letter as members of Broadband Connects America (“BCA”), a coalition of diverse national, state-based, and local nonprofit organizations, as well as state agencies, that advocate for policies to promote broadband access in underserved rural areas. We write to urge the swift and concurrent confirmation of Jessica Rosenworcel for Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chair, Gigi Sohn for FCC Commissioner, and Alan Davidson for Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). These agencies need immediate leadership to bring affordable, reliable, high-speed internet to rural and Tribal communities. A failure to confirm them all before the end of this year will jeopardize the ability of rural communities to engage in modern society as others with the internet can.

Over the last two years, as the COVID-19 pandemic took root in the United States, it became clear that broadband is an essential service and that the government must take action to connect people across the nation. In order to ensure the steps Congress has taken to help close the digital divide can succeed, these agencies need Senate-confirmed leaders. Each of these nominees bring the decades of experience and commitment required to connect rural and Tribal communities.

During Jessica Rosenworcel’s tenure at the FCC, she has rapidly implemented a Congressional program to bring broadband to millions of people who could not previously afford it; championed the need for reliable data on broadband availability that will ensure communities are not wrongfully denied broadband deployment funding, and connected tribes by providing them with unlicensed spectrum to buildout broadband and by making Tribal libraries eligible for E-Rate funds. This experience alone makes her an exceptional choice for FCC Chair. Additionally, she is a widely respected leader in tech



policy, a dedicated consumer advocate, and a swift decision maker who will most certainly bridge the digital divide.

Likewise, Gigi Sohn is an experienced consumer advocate who has done more to close the digital divide than almost anyone else in the field. During Gigi's career, including working as a top advisor to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and as the co-Founder and CEO of Public Knowledge, she has tirelessly championed universal connectivity to a free and open internet. Gigi is known for bringing together strange bedfellows to get the job done -- including public interest groups, industry, urban & rural, and stakeholders from across the aisle. Her pragmatism will ensure that rural communities are no longer left on the wrong side of the digital divide because of partisan fights.

Finally, Alan Davidson has over 20 years of experience in government, industry, and public interest advocacy, making him an ideal candidate to lead the NTIA. If passed, the bipartisan infrastructure package and budget reconciliation bill will give the NTIA responsibility for multiple programs that will connect rural and Tribal communities, including a \$42.5 billion broadband deployment program, a grant program to promote digital equity, and a program to give low-income consumers the devices they so urgently need to connect. Alan Davidson's leadership experience, both within industry and the public interest sector, positions him to successfully stand up these important programs to get rural and Tribal communities connected.

The FCC and the NTIA have a lot of work ahead of them, and these three experienced and committed nominees' appointments cannot be delayed any further if we want people across the country to ring in the new year with newly adopted broadband. Thus, Congress must confirm all three nominees before the end of the year. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Access Humboldt
Benton Institute for Broadband and Society
California Center for Rural Policy
Center for Rural Strategies
ConnectMaine
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Maine Broadband Coalition



National Digital Equity Center
Public Knowledge
Rural Wireless Association, Inc.
The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Mississippi
Together for Hope: A Rural Development Coalition
X-Lab



Holly Borgmann
Vice President, Government Affairs
ADT Security Services
1501 Yamato Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431
Tel: (561) 226-3484

Nov 2, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
498 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cantwell, Wicker, Lujan, and Thune,

On behalf of ADT Security Services, the leading provider of electronic security and alarm monitoring services in the United States, with more than 20,000 employees across the country, I am writing to express our strong support for Gigi Sohn's nomination to join the Federal Communications Commission as a Commissioner.

At ADT, we believe everyone deserves to feel safe. Our customers depend on our security and monitoring services, whether they are dealing with life safety threats resulting from an intrusion, a health crisis, a flood, carbon monoxide (CO) threat, or a fire. Those services depend on customer access to robust, reliable connections to our alarm monitoring centers and, in turn, public safety officials and first responders. While technology has changed over the course of ADT's nearly 150-year history, our customers' expectations have not. Our customers expect us to help keep them safe, and we don't take that trust for granted.

Gigi Sohn has taken the time to learn the ins and outs of the electronic security industry and has been a regular speaker at industry events year after year. She is trusted and respected within our industry. Ms. Sohn has introduced members of our industry to her own broad network, and has given an industry like ours, comprised mainly of small, regional businesses, a voice in national policy debates. Having worked with Ms. Sohn for years, I have found her to be highly knowledgeable, egalitarian, and above all, reasonable.

Over the past year and a half, the American public has become critically aware of the divide between the digital haves and have nots. When jobs, schools, and even alarm monitoring moved to a home environment, the quality of one's internet connection quickly became paramount. As the FCC looks for new and innovative ways to expand access to quality, affordable communications networks for all Americans, I have no doubt that Ms. Sohn's passion for universal connectivity and her collaborative spirit will be an asset to the Commission.

On behalf of ADT, I respectfully ask that you vote to confirm Gigi Sohn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Borgmann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Holly Borgmann

cc: Senator Marco Rubio
Senator Rick Scott



November 22, 2021

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senate
100 North Broadway
Suite 210
Wichita, Kansas 67202

Dear Senator Moran:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Gigi Sohn to the Federal Communications Commission.

As you know, IdeaTek is a Kansas-based small broadband provider that has strived to compete against the larger incumbent carriers for many years. We have been able to offer more efficient and affordable service to consumers and small businesses in Kansas due to our ability to compete in the monopoly-dominated broadband market.

While Ms. Sohn may have some more progressive views on matters that you and I may disagree with, she has been a strong advocate for small competitive broadband companies throughout her thirty-year career. We strive for customers to have freedom and choice when it comes to broadband services, and competitiveness is a crucial part of that mission. This issue outweighs other potential policy changes she may advocate for, as Ms. Sohn's commitment to competitiveness is essential for the future of broadband.

Ms. Sohn is a respected lawyer and previously served in a key role at the FCC under a former Chair. She has an excellent understanding of the complex issues facing the FCC today and in the near future. It is my hope that you can join me in recognizing the dedication she displays to competitiveness in broadband, and the value she could bring to the agency and the industry it oversees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Friesen', written in a cursive style.

Daniel Friesen
Managing Partner & Chief Innovation Officer

February 6, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

As America's mayors, we write to request that you hold the nomination hearing for Gigi Sohn to serve on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as expeditiously as possible so that her nomination can receive a prompt floor vote. We believe that a fully functioning FCC is vital, especially during this unprecedented time of broadband demand and investment, including the Affordable Connectivity Program and other Internet For All initiatives.

Allowing Ms. Sohn to assume the long-vacant FCC seat will enable the Commission to function the way the Communications Act intended – as a five-member body. We also believe Ms. Sohn will be an important new voice on the FCC because of her career focus on promoting widespread access to affordable and reliable broadband service.

Municipal governments are on the front lines and often times the first contact residents make when looking for answers to questions about communications infrastructure in their communities and access to essential services such as broadband. We therefore have a unique, first-hand understanding about the ways in which FCC decisions impact our communities.

Promptly granting Ms. Sohn a nomination hearing and following that up with an expeditious floor vote on her nomination will enable the FCC to take action on pressing issues as far ranging as broadband deployment, spectrum allocation and auctions, universal service, public safety, and the proper roles of state and local governments in communications policy.

Your constituents and the entire United States deserve a full five-member FCC. We therefore ask that the Committee accelerate the filling of the FCC vacancy by holding a hearing on the Gigi Sohn nomination and sending her nomination to the Senate floor for a prompt vote.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Mayor Lucy Vinis, Eugene, Oregon
Mayor Jim Ross, Arlington, Texas
Mayor John Arthur Ernst Jr., Brookhaven, Georgia
Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, Chicago, Illinois
Mayor Patrick L. Wojahn, College Park, Maryland
Mayor Rodney S. Craig, Hanover Park, Illinois
Mayor William 'Bill' D. McLeod, Hoffman Estates, Illinois

Mayor Satya V. Rhodes-Conway, Madison, Wisconsin
Mayor Kenneth D. Miyagishima, Las Cruces, New Mexico
Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Piscataway, New Jersey
Mayor Ted Wheeler, Portland, Oregon
Mayor Victoria Woodards, Tacoma, Washington

Cc: The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader



Letter to U.S. Senate calling for the swift confirmation of Gigi Sohn so that the FCC can protect reproductive rights

Posted February 9, 2023 at 5:36 AM



Re: Protect Privacy in Post-Roe era

Dear Members of the United States Senate,

We write to urge the United States Senate to confirm Gigi Sohn to the fifth seat on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) before the end of March. Without her confirmation, the FCC will remain deadlocked and unable to protect consumer privacy and safety. Crucially, there are several things that the FCC could do to protect the safety and rights of people seeking, providing, and facilitating abortion care. But they can't do any of them until the commission is fully staffed.

The Biden administration's priorities, including restoring net neutrality and enacting privacy rules, have stalled for over two years. In that time, telecom giants and Big Tech have only scaled up their collection and retention of an astonishingly unnecessary amount of customer data, including the locations and search histories of individual people.

This mass surveillance dragnet is not only harmful to the public at large and our democracy—it puts the lives of abortion patients and providers in danger. The FCC has clear authority over restricting these abusive data collection practices. But with Sohn still waiting to break the current deadlock, it cannot act.

Following the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, unregulated data collection has reached a point of crisis. Our country's lack of constitutional privacy protections now enables the mass-scale tracking and criminalization of those seeking abortion healthcare. Location data from cell phones can be used as evidence to prosecute those who travel out



It is extremely important that the FCC act swiftly to reduce the amount of intimate personal data that wireless carriers and Big Tech are allowed to collect and retain. Sohn is the right person for this job. She has spent the bulk of her career defending privacy rights and consumer safety.

Without Sohn, the FCC's lack of voting majority enables a data free-for-all on our mobile devices. Much of the data that carriers and Big Tech hoard is completely unnecessary for purposes of delivering mobile broadband, cell phone, or app services. Such data is collected because app developers, data brokers, and advertising firms pay a premium for it and face no restrictions on its use. For example, in 2016 an advertising company working with anti-abortion groups **used** "mobile geo-fencing" to pinpoint the location of women sitting in a Planned Parenthood waiting room, and sent them anti-choice ads in an attempt to dissuade them from getting an abortion.

States including Texas and Oklahoma have passed so-called "vigilante" laws that empower civilians to actively investigate each other for aiding, abetting, or obtaining an abortion. Right now, for a relatively low cost, anyone can pay a data broker to access millions of cell phone users' geolocation data. This broad attack surface poses a threat to the public at large. In 2019, an investigation by Motherboard **revealed** that for as little as \$300, an individual could hire a bounty hunter to geolocate a phone. In a separate 2022 investigation, Motherboard **purchased** the location data of visitors to 600 Planned Parenthood locations over the course of one week for \$160.

The FCC should already have moved to rein in such abuses. It possesses broad authority to crack down and enforce net neutrality, mandate broadband privacy, and end the totally unnecessary and egregious collection and sale of our intimate personal data. Civil rights groups in particular have been warning the government for years that the blanket surveillance hidden in our everyday devices poses a substantial threat to privacy rights, personal safety, and the lives of Black and brown people. It's far past time to confirm a fifth Commissioner with a track record of listening to traditionally marginalized people and defending everyone's basic human right to privacy. Absent Sohn's speedy appointment, the FCC will continue to do nothing, and that is unconscionable.

At a time when core privacy rights are being challenged and in some cases decimated, a kneecapped FCC is the last problem we should have. The Senate must take action to confirm Sohn and in doing so, it will be signaling that clear parameters are needed to protect consumers from being involuntarily recorded or tracked. Continued failure to appoint Sohn



Sincerely,

Fight for the Future, Accountable Tech, Advocacy for Principled Action in Government, Aspiration, California LGBT Arts Alliance, Defending Rights & Dissent, Digital Defense Fund, Digital Equity Research Center, Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), FREE! Families Rally for Emancipation and Empowerment, GLAAD, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, JusticeLA Coalition, Kairos Action, Lucy Parsons Labs, Media Alliance, MediaJustice, MPower Change Action Fund, Muslim Advocates, Muslim Counterpublics Lab, National Center for Transgender Equality, Open Markets Institute, OpenMedia, Privacy Right Clearinghouse, Pro-Choice North Carolina, Pro-Choice Washington, Progressive Technology Project, Public Citizen, Reframe Health and Justice, Restore The Fourth, RootsAction.org, Secure Justice, Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, Tech for Good Asia, The Sex Workers Project of the Urban Justice Center, The Tech Oversight Project, UCLA Center on Race & Digital Justice, UltraViolet Action, WA People's Privacy, and Women's March

NEXT ARTICLE

If Biden wants to protect kids online, he should push for privacy legislation that protects everyone

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February 6, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Cantwell, and Ranking Member Cruz:

Our diversity is our power. LGBTQ Victory Institute and the undersigned organizations representing a wide and diverse array of backgrounds and industries write to express our continued support and excitement for the nomination of Gigi Sohn as Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner. Gigi was first nominated over a year ago, on October 26th, 2021, and it is past time that she join the FCC and use her tremendous qualifications for the betterment of our country.

The Biden-Harris Administration made clear earlier this year that they are in full support of Gigi's historic nomination when they nominated her for a third time. We share the Administration's view that Gigi is the right leader for this role given her extensive qualifications, superior leadership qualities, and deep technical background.

A fully-functioning FCC that can advance broadband access, ensure all voices are heard, and protect all Americans' privacy is critically important to not just one community or demographic, but to our entire nation. Unfortunately, the FCC remains short of the critical fifth Commissioner since the beginning of the Biden-Harris Administration. Ultimately, this negatively impacts each and every American.

Gigi is one of the nation's leading public advocates for open, affordable, and democratic communications networks. She demonstrated her dedication to ensuring that every American household has affordable and robust broadband internet for thirty years. Gigi has worked across the country to defend and preserve the fundamental competition and innovation policies that have made broadband internet access more ubiquitous, competitive, affordable, open, and protective of user privacy. During this time, she has worked across the industry, notably as Counselor to former FCC Chair Tom Wheeler.



Gigi's nomination has recently come under attack, not on the basis of qualifications or substance, but because she is openly LGBTQ+. Her barrier-breaking nomination as the first LGBTQ+ nominee to the FCC is being met with homophobic tropes and attacks, against herself and her family, in an attempt to stall her nomination. That cannot stand.

Over 375 organizations, companies, elected officials, and local governments remain in full support for Gigi. We collectively call upon every Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to consider her qualifications and move her nomination forward expeditiously.

Homophobic and sexist fearmongering should have no place in the consideration of Gigi's qualifications. It's morally corrupt and antithetical to the high virtue of the Chamber.

Americans deserve a full-functioning FCC. We call upon every member of the Senate to condemn homophobia and sexism and consider Gigi's nomination on its merits. We urge Members to confirm Ms. Sohn to the seat she is so qualified for without delay.

Respectfully,

LGBTQ Victory Institute

GLAAD

Equality California

Silver State Equality

Association of LGBTQ+ Corporate Directors

Lambda Legal

Council for Global Equality

Free Press Action

LPAC Action Network

United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry

FORGE, Inc.

LGBTQ Bar Association

Center for Disability Rights

Pride at Work

Human Rights Campaign

Equality Federation



Athlete Ally

PFLAG National

National Center for Transgender Equality

Family Equality

LGBT Technology Partnership

National LGBTQ Task Force

American Federation of Teachers
Randi Weingarten, President

“The FCC regulates so many technology issues that impact our daily lives, including how we get online in our homes, schools, and at work, and how we keep people safe on the internet, and their information and data secure. It also deals with basic issues that affect our communities: in America today, nearly 19 million households still lack reliable broadband, denying them opportunities to connect to get online for homework, banking, accessing news, communicating with family, and more. Gigi Sohn has spent a career advocating for the expansion of reliable and affordable internet access and would be a welcome addition to the Federal Communications Commission. It is long past time that the U.S. Senate vote to confirm her.”



**Statement in Support of the Nomination of Gigi Sohn to the
Federal Communications Commission**

Monday, February 13, 2023

“Gigi has dedicated her career to fighting for robust, open, and affordable communications networks that work for all Americans. She has worked with organizations across the political spectrum, and with consumer advocates and industry alike, to reach common ground. Her commitment to diversifying viewpoints in the media, protecting consumers, fostering innovation, and bolstering vibrant communications markets will help ensure everyone’s voice can be heard.”