

## **Testimony of Lina M. Khan**

### **Nominee for Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission**

#### **Before the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation**

**April 21, 2021**

Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Wicker, and members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

I am deeply honored to have been nominated by President Biden to serve as a Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission.

And I am so grateful to my family, friends, colleagues, and mentors for their encouragement and support. I'd especially like to recognize my parents and my husband, who are here with me today, and my brothers, parents-in-law, and grandmother, who are all watching online.

For the last decade, I have focused on studying and investigating markets across our economy and examining the laws that enable honest and fair competition.

I first started this work as a journalist and policy analyst, where my job was to document the state of competition across industries and to uncover the abusive business practices that excessive market concentration can enable. I spent years studying markets ranging from chicken farming and airlines to aluminum and book publishing, and learning from entrepreneurs and small businesses about the obstacles that they face. This work taught me the importance of fair competition, and the critical role that the antitrust laws play in encouraging business dynamism and promoting widespread prosperity.

I have built on this work as a legal scholar, where my focus has been to examine the history of America's antimonopoly laws. This history reveals our long tradition of safeguarding core liberties through promoting competitive markets, and the wide arsenal of tools we have used to protect our economy and our democracy from unchecked monopoly power. Studying this tradition lets us mine our past for lessons we can apply when navigating challenges today.

I have also had the chance to work on competition issues through government service, first at the Federal Trade Commission and, most recently, as counsel to the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law. While in the House I helped lead a 16-month bipartisan investigation into digital markets, a top-to-bottom empirical review of how these markets are functioning. Pursuing this investigation underscored the important work that enforcers and lawmakers must do to ensure that longstanding laws are keeping pace with new technologies and reflecting current business realities.

Congress created the Federal Trade Commission to serve as a key guardian of fair competition and to protect consumers, workers, and honest businesses from unfair and deceptive trade practices.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with my fellow Commissioners, the career staff, this Committee, and the broader public to pursue the agency's mission with vigor and a deep commitment to serving the American public.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.

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