

February 6, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

Dear Chair Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

ACT | The App Association supports the nomination of Abigail Slater to serve as United States Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division. Ms. Slater demonstrated keen and fair leadership throughout her career as a civil servant, and we believe she is a strong choice to lead the Antitrust Division.

The App Association is the leading trade group representing small business application developers and connected device companies in the United States and around the world. These companies drive a global app economy worth \$6.3 trillion, which supports 6.1 million American jobs. App Association members leverage the connectivity of smart devices to create innovative solutions that introduce new efficiencies across consumer and enterprise use cases. They rely on forward-thinking government that prioritizes unleashing small business growth and success in the app economy.

At the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Ms. Slater worked on major merger cases in the Competition Bureau, developing expertise in and an appreciation for the benefits and potential competitive risks of acquisitions. She also served as vice president at Roku, gaining valuable private sector experience on these issues in a leadership role.

The ability for small businesses in the app economy to seek an acquisition or simply to have a legal and fair path toward a deal is fundamental to the innovation cycle in the United States. For them, it is important to have top federal enforcers that understand this dynamic. As Special Assistant to the President on the National Economic Council during the first Trump Administration, Ms. Slater also proved instrumental in steering the federal government on key technology policy issues related to antitrust and competition. One priority that was thoroughly debated at that time and continues to be of utmost importance for App Association members is that the Administration must take a strong stance against the abusive licensing of standard-essential patents (SEPs). A fair approach to this issue is critical to safeguard American innovation and ingenuity, especially as foreign adversaries have begun to employ SEP abuse as a means of disadvantaging American competitors. Lastly, we believe Ms. Slater is well-suited to address the potential antitrust issues that apply to emerging and fast-evolving markets, including those around artificial intelligence (AI). In order to ensure small businesses in the app economy can benefit from the best AI tools and services—and to preserve their access to investment dollars—the Trump Administration must decline the temptation to treat investments into AI as anticompetitive until proven pro-competitive.

We urge this Committee to quickly confirm Ms. Slater and look forward to working with you on related issues that affect App Association members in the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morgan Reed". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light gray rectangular background.

Morgan Reed  
President  
ACT | The App Association