



THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

August 11, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

Thank you for the July 28, 2017 letter from you and Chairman Goodlatte concerning competition issues in the upcoming negotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement, as well as in other free trade agreements that the United States may negotiate in the coming years. I share your view that all jurisdictions should aspire to high standards of non-discriminatory and transparent antitrust proceedings. I also agree that these proceedings should be grounded in economic analysis in support of consumer welfare objectives, and that they should be conducted in a manner consistent with procedural fairness and due process. The Federal Trade Commission has vigorously promoted these objectives in multiple fora for many years, and will continue to do so under my leadership.

Please know that we are working very closely with the United States Trade Representative and the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice to develop a competition chapter that will fulfill those goals. One of the announced objectives for that chapter is to “[e]stablish or affirm basic rules for procedural fairness on competition law enforcement.” We hope that the U.S. proposal will achieve that objective.

Thank you again for your support of this important effort. Please also let me know whenever we may be of assistance with respect to any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Maureen K. Ohlhausen".

Maureen K. Ohlhausen  
Acting Chairman

Cc: The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Attorney General of the United States  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 Seventeenth Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20508