

October 1, 2021

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chair The Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Member U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of Public Citizen's more than 500,000 members and supporters nationwide, we write in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Jonathan Kanter as Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust at the Department of Justice (DOJ). Mr. Kanter will bring decades of experience as a leading expert and successful antitrust practitioner to the Antitrust Division.

Public Citizen is a nonprofit advocacy organization focused on curbing corporate power and protecting democracy. We represent the public interest through legislative and administrative advocacy, litigation, research, and public education on a broad range of issues including protecting privacy, safeguarding consumers, and curbing corporate concentration's impact on our democracy.

It is a critical time for antitrust enforcement and Mr. Kanter's substantial experience and leadership will make a powerful difference for America. We have seen chronic underenforcement from the U.S. antitrust agencies resulting from decades of anti-consumer caselaw, resistance to bringing cases, and a revolving door to industry that casts public doubt on the government's commitment to serious enforcement. As Big Tech companies have grown in power and influence, and other industries have experienced staggering consolidation, the DOJ has not done enough to rein in the power that comes from unchecked concentration.

Mr. Kanter's depth of experience and expertise in the field of antitrust law make him an ideal choice to lead the Antitrust Division at a critical moment for the antitrust enforcement. He previously served as an attorney in the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition where he investigated major matters involving internet providers, music publishers, online services, supermarkets and oil and gas companies, among others. In private practice he has a track record of leading large antitrust cases from beginning to end. He was featured in the 2019 edition of Variety's Legal Impact Report, which highlights the top attorneys in the entertainment business. In 2017, Global Competition Review and Who's Who Legal recognized him as one of the top competition lawyers under the age of 45. The Washingtonian and Super Lawyers list him as one of the "best lawyers" in Washington, D.C.

Moreover, Mr. Kanter has demonstrated a commitment to pursuing cases against Big Tech companies. Over the course of a career dedicated to antitrust enforcement, he developed and advocated for the successful antitrust theories underlying more than six major antitrust actions against Google in Europe and the United States, including record-breaking enforcement actions regarding unfair practices in the search and mobile phone markets.

Mr. Kanter's stellar career as an antitrust lawyer, his prior experience at the Federal Trade Commission, and his willingness to pursue cases against the biggest companies in the world make him the clear choice to serve as Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust at the DOJ. We urge you and the committee to support confirmation of his nomination.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gilbert

Executive Vice President

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Public Citizen