

August 8, 2024

The Honorable Kamala Harris
The White House
Office of the Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
Republican Nominee for President
P.O. Box 13570
Arlington, VA 22219

Dear Vice President Harris & President Trump:

The undersigned organizations have a long and powerful history of advocating for consumers across the economy, including on behalf of some of our nation's most vulnerable populations. We write to you in strong support of Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan, and, should you be elected President, we urge you to reject the demands to fire her from her position at the FTC. Chair Khan has helped revitalize the FTC with a renewed focus on restoring trust and accountability to the marketplace and securing economic freedom for people and small businesses.

Chair Khan has made it her mission to hear from and respond to the challenges that face Americans across the economy. During Chair Khan's tenure, the FTC has renewed its open commission meetings, where members of the public can register to talk directly to the Commissioners about their experiences. She has taken bold steps to strengthen data privacy, particularly for children and teenagers, by expressly moving away from the harmful "notice and choice" regime, pushing for stronger consumer protection rules,¹ and bringing groundbreaking enforcement actions.² Chair Khan has been a champion in the fight against harmful and pervasive junk fees, proposing an all-in pricing rule that

¹ "FTC Proposes Strengthening Children's Privacy Rule to Further Limit Companies' Ability to Monetize Children's Data," (Dec. 20, 2023), available at <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2023/12/ftc-proposes-strengthening-childrens-privacy-rule-further-limit-companies-ability-monetize-childrens>

² "Fortnite Video Game Maker Epic Games to Pay More Than Half a Billion Dollars Over FTC Allegations of Privacy Violations and Unwanted Charges," (Dec. 19, 2022), available at: <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2022/12/fortnite-video-game-maker-epic-games-pay-more-half-billion-dollars-over-ftc-allegations>

allows companies to honestly compete on price rather than false pretenses,³ and a transparency rule for car buyers that will save them at least \$3.4 billion and 72 million hours as they shop for a new car.⁴ Chair Khan has pursued rulemakings and policy initiatives aimed to ensure that it is as easy to cancel a subscription as it is to enroll,⁵ equip the FTC to return money to the victims of pervasive frauds and scams,⁶ and protect small business franchise owners from exploitative practices.⁷

Chair Khan has been a powerful advocate for communities that are frequently targeted by scammers. She has enhanced the FTC's efforts to protect older Americans from frauds and scams,⁸ penalized companies for targeting servicemembers, veterans and their families with fraudulent job offers and fake student loan assistance, and sought justice for the victims of racial discrimination.⁹

During her time at the FTC, Chair Khan has secured bipartisan support on many key issues, including cracking down on false "made in USA" claims, investigating surveillance pricing tactics, blocking anticompetitive mergers, and protecting consumers' right to repair their own devices. This work underscores the point that consumer protection is not – and should not be – a political exercise.

We urge you to reject the demands to fire Chair Khan should you become President and to express your full support for her work at the FTC. Consumers stand to lose many

³ "FTC Proposes Rule to Ban Junk Fees," (Oct. 11, 2023), available at

<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2023/10/ftc-proposes-rule-ban-junk-fees>

⁴ "FTC Announces CARS Rule to Fight Scams in Vehicle Shopping," (Dec. 12, 2023), available at

<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2023/12/ftc-announces-cars-rule-fight-scams-vehicle-shopping>

⁵ "Federal Trade Commission Proposes Rule Provision Making it Easier for Consumers to "Click to Cancel" Recurring Subscriptions and Memberships," (March 23, 2023),

<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2023/03/federal-trade-commission-proposes-rule-provision-making-it-easier-consumers-click-cancel-recurring>.

⁶ "FTC Announces Impersonation Rule Goes into Effect Today," (April 1, 2024), available at

<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/04/ftc-announces-impersonation-rule-goes-effect-today>.

⁷ "FTC Takes Action to Ensure Franchisees' Complaints are Heard and to Protect Against Illegal Fees" (July 12, 2024), available at

<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/07/ftc-takes-action-ensure-franchisees-complaints-are-heard-protect-against-illegal-fees>

⁸ <https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/addressing-scams-affecting-older-adults>

⁹ "FTC and Wisconsin Take Action Against Rhinelander Auto Center for Illegally Discriminating Against American Indian Customers..." (Oct. 24, 2023), available at

<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2023/10/ftc-wisconsin-take-action-against-rhinelander-auto-center-illegally-discriminating-against-american>

of the economic gains made during the Biden-Harris administration in the absence of her leadership.

Sincerely,

Consumer Federation of America

AKPIRG

California Alliance for Consumer Education (CACE)

Center for Economic Integrity

Center for Pet Safety

Children's Advocacy Institute

Consumer Action

Consumer Federation of California

Consumer Protection Policy Center

Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

Funeral Consumer Alliance of Connecticut, Inc.

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Texas

Georgia Watch

HEAL (Health, Environment Agriculture, Labor) Food Alliance

Manufactured Home Owners Association of New Jersey

National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC)

National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)

National Consumers League

Ohio State Chair, National Association of Consumer Advocates

Oregon Consumer Justice

Rise Economy

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

U.S. PIRG

Woodstock Institute