



April 13, 2021

Congressman Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
2132 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
2056 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman David Cicilline
Chairman
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial
and Administrative Law
2233 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Ken Buck
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial
and Administrative Law
2455 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Jordan, Chairman Cicilline, Ranking Member Buck,
and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

We write to encourage you to pass the House Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law Subcommittee's Majority Staff Report on Competition in Digital Markets. The Subcommittee Report is a powerful, thorough, and careful analysis of an important challenge facing our economy and our democracy today: breaking down the power of the largest digital platforms. The Committee should pass this report as a signal that the incredible fact-finding work of the Subcommittee informs the policy choices Congress will make in this area going forward.

It's important that the proposals the Committee is working on this Congress are grounded in research and expertise. Addressing the power of dominant digital platforms is a complex problem, both economically and technically. We need Congress to get this right, and the Subcommittee Report is an important source of information and support for the smart policy changes we need to create a more free and open internet ecosystem where competition can thrive, disruptive innovation is supported, and people can really choose what they want.

The Subcommittee Report represents a real accomplishment on the part of the Subcommittee members and their staff. The 16-month, bipartisan investigation included seven hearings, more

than a million documents, testimony from dozens of experts on antitrust and competition policy from across the ideological spectrum, and interviews with more than 240 market participants totaling thousands of hours. Stakeholders, including the dominant digital platforms whose power we seek to curtail, participated in the hearings and provided documents that informed the resulting report.

The report describes an array of potential policy solutions to address the significant competition problems uncovered in the Subcommittee's thorough investigation. These potential reforms examined in the report should serve as springboards for the Committee's upcoming legislative work. Public Knowledge is particularly interested in working with the Subcommittee on the proposals related to structural separations, non-discrimination requirements, interoperability, and strengthening the antitrust laws through presumptions against particularly harmful categories of mergers, making it easier to bring cases against single-firm conduct, and improving federal and private antitrust enforcement.

The next step of crafting informed and effective legislation will greatly benefit from the months of work that went into building this report. We urge the Committee to pass the report and move quickly to the important work of crafting legislation to address the concerns reflected in it.

Sincerely,

/s/ Charlotte Slaiman

Charlotte Slaiman
Competition Policy Director
Public Knowledge

/s/ Alex Petros

Alex Petros
Policy Counsel
Public Knowledge