

March 21, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We write to you as a coalition of businesses and groups committed to the promotion of competition and vigorous enforcement of antitrust law across the U.S. economy to express our deep concerns with the FY2024 appropriations package's inadequate funding for the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. We strongly oppose the inclusion of language that restricts the Antitrust Division's access to critical resources that it needs to carry out its mission. It is imperative that you fix this grave error for FY2024. Furthermore, we urge you to commit to providing the Antitrust Division with increased funding for FY2025, without any restrictions on access to premerger filing fees, consistent with the express language and intent of the bipartisan *Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act*.

Competition is a bedrock of the U.S. economy, and we strongly believe that providing the Antitrust Division and the Federal Trade Commission with sufficient funding is essential to promoting competition and innovation for the benefit of all American consumers and businesses.

Consistent with this, we echo the joint call from Senators Klobuchar (D-MN) and Grassley (R-IA) and Representatives Nadler (D-NY), Buck (R-CO), and Neguse (D-CO) for a commitment from you to ensure the Antitrust Division can fully access the premerger filing fees as intended by the *Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act*. As the bipartisan letter stated, "While there has long been a strong commitment to fully enforce our antitrust laws, we must ensure the DOJ has ample resources to take on cases that have become more complex and involve some of the largest companies the world has ever known."<sup>1</sup>

In conclusion, we urge you to join Chair Shaheen (D-NH) in her pledge to do everything within her power to restore full funding to the Antitrust Division. We urge you to do so for both the

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<sup>1</sup> Press Release, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Klobuchar, Grassley, Buck, Neguse, and Nadler Call for Restoration of Antitrust Division Funding (Mar. 5, 2024), <https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/news-releases?ID=39C1676A-1795-4845-B092-D2FC7DE5653F>.

FY2024 and FY2025 appropriations package to ensure our federal antitrust agencies have the resources they need to restore and promote competition across the U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

Advice Only

Beeper

Coalition for App Fairness (CAF)

Corellium

Digital Progress Institute

DuckDuckGo

Efani Secure Mobile

LI Toy & Game LLC

Proton

Responsible Online Commerce Coalition (ROCC)

SeatGeek

Thalorin

Thexyz Inc.

Yelp