

November 17, 2021

Senator Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Committee on Commerce, Science,
& Transportation
511 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C., 20510

Senator Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science,
& Transportation
555 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C., 20510

Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

We write to you today in support of the nomination of Professor Alvaro Bedoya as a Commissioner for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Professor Bedoya has been at the forefront of bringing the real-world harm of data exploitation and misuse to light and holding technology companies to account. We believe that it is essential he is swiftly confirmed so he can bring his significant experience and expertise on technology and civil rights to further the FTC's mission to protect competition and consumers.

Professor Bedoya is the founding director of the Georgetown Center on Privacy & Technology, a think tank at the intersection of technology and civil liberties. His academic work, particularly the Center's *The Perpetual Line-Up* report has been pivotal in bringing to light the pitfalls of facial recognition technology. Due in large part to this scholarship, jurisdictions around the country have adopted regulations limiting facial recognition's adoption due to the pervasive biases and privacy violations inherent in the technology.

Both the FTC and Congress have indicated they wish to explore the intersection between privacy and competition for online platforms. Enforcers across the globe are waking up to the dangers posed by digital platforms, and Professor Bedoya is poised to assist the US and the FTC in advancing this important work. He's held technology companies big and small alike accountable and has worked to make sure technology is used in the best interests of consumers, not just company bottom lines.

The FTC has a broad mandate to protect consumers and competition across the entire economy, and Professor Bedoya has mirrored these goals in his own policy career. Under his leadership, the Center on Privacy and Technology successfully pushed Google to drop ads for predatory online payday loans. His work has also included protecting small businesses from error-prone immigration databases and developing more transparency for government surveillance. Professor Bedoya's career has been spent ensuring a fair and just economy for all, and the FTC would greatly benefit from his experience.

Professor Bedoya has experience working in the US Senate, as the first chief counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee's Privacy Subcommittee. There, he led bipartisan work to combat stalking apps as well as work with the Commerce Committee to develop cybersecurity

legislation. Anyone who worked with or for Alvaro can speak to his keen policy mind and bipartisan approach, qualities that will serve him well in his new role.

As the FTC and this Committee prepare to tackle the challenge of ensuring our privacy from powerful tech companies, there's no better leader on the issue to put in place at the Commission than Professor Bedoya. His perspective, informed by the strong foundation of his academic work and experience working across the aisle in Congress, will be invaluable to this complex undertaking. He's built a career advocating for those who struggle to be heard in Washington and we believe he will be a consumer champion for all once confirmed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Accountable Tech

Center for Digital Democracy

Common Sense

Consumer Action

Electronic Frontier Foundation

Electronic Privacy Information Center

Fairplay

Free Press Action

Future of Music Coalition

The Greenlining Institute

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

New America's Open Technology Institute

Open MIC

Public Knowledge

Ranking Digital Rights

U.S. PIRG