

March 17, 2023

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

For more than two years and for your entire term, the Federal Communications Commission has been in 2-2 deadlock, leaving the agency unable to make necessary progress to increase digital equity and media diversity, bolster online privacy and safety protection, and reassert its rightful authority over broadband to ensure everyone in the United States has access to this essential service.

Gigi Sohn was eminently qualified to serve as a commissioner. But after 16 months of organized and well-funded attacks by dark-money groups—which were carried out by lobbyists, enabled by complicit elected leaders, and amplified in partisan media—Sohn made the understandable decision to withdraw from consideration. And we are back where we started in January 2021.

Now, we call on you to immediately put forth a new nominee – specifically, one who has a history of advocacy for the public interest and is free of industry conflicts of interest; demonstrates a clear commitment to championing the rights of low-income families and communities of color; and supports Title II oversight and laws that ensure the FCC the authority to prevent unjust discrimination and promote affordable access.

Moreover, we ask you to actively press the Democratic majority in the Senate to swiftly confirm your nominee. We cannot permit Senators to prevent forward progress any longer at the behest of the very corporations the FCC is meant to regulate.

Urgent action is required on a number of fronts. The Trump administration's repeal of net neutrality regulations in 2017 privileged the interests of enormous telecom companies. Far too many low-income households remain without consistent access to broadband. Women and people of color face overwhelming barriers as owners, workers and content creators in media, and yet we lack sufficient public data to track—let alone address—the problem. Millions pay predatory rates to communicate with incarcerated loved ones. And giant telecom and internet companies have spent exorbitant amounts lobbying to delay, loosen, or prevent regulations on how they use customers' data. You have made clear that restoring and expanding responsible rules to govern the monopolies that dominate the digital sphere is a priority for your administration. Crucial to this objective is a fully functional FCC.

We implore you to take prompt action to restore regulatory control to the American people by expeditiously offering a new, strong nominee to the Senate who will champion our shared priorities.

Sincerely,

Access Humboldt  
Alliance for Community Media  
American Library Association  
Appalshop Community Media Initiative  
Ashbury Senior Computer Community Center  
atAdvocacy  
Barton-Garcia Advisors  
Benton Institute for Broadband & Society  
Blue Future  
California Center for Rural Policy  
California Clean Money Campaign  
California Community Foundation Digital Equity Initiative  
Center for Accessible Technology  
Center for Digital Democracy  
The Center for Digital Equity at Queens University of Charlotte  
Center for Rural Strategies  
Chamber of Progress  
Christ is Relief Inc  
City of Boston, Massachusetts  
City of Portland, Oregon  
Common Cause  
Community Tech Network  
Computer Reach  
ConnectWaukegan / ConnectLakeCounty  
CreaTV San José  
Demand Progress Education Fund  
Derry Community Access Media  
Detroit Community Technology Project  
Digital Equity Learning Network of King County  
Digitunity  
E2D - Eliminate the Digital Divide  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
EveryoneOn

Fight for the Future  
Free Press Action  
Freedom BLOC  
Future of Music Coalition  
Generation Justice  
Goodwill of Columbus, Ohio  
The Greenlining Institute  
HEARD  
IBSA, Inc.  
Institute for Local Self-Reliance  
InterFaith Works of Central New York  
Link Oregon  
Kairos Action  
Media Alliance  
MediaJustice  
Middle Tennessee State University  
mohuman  
National Digital Inclusion Alliance  
New America's Open Technology Institute  
New Hampshire Coalition for Community Media  
NTEN  
Other 98%  
Open Media and Information Companies Initiative  
OpenMedia  
Our Revolution  
Partners Bridging the Digital Divide  
Progress America  
Prometheus Radio Project  
Public Knowledge  
Revolving Door Project  
Right Here, Right Now Project  
RootsAction.org  
Salina Media Connection  
Sports Fans Coalition  
Tech Goes Home  
UCLA Center on Race and Digital Justice  
United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry  
X-Lab