



April 13, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
H SOB 322, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
R SOB 317, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

Thank you for your service to our nation.

I write on behalf of National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) to express opposition to the confirmation of Gigi Sohn to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

NRB is a non-profit, membership association, headquartered in Washington, D.C., that represents the interests of Christian broadcasters and faith-based organizations throughout the nation. Since 1944, the mission of NRB has been to help protect and defend the rights of Christian media and to ensure that the channels of electronic communication stay open and accessible for Christian communicators. In addition, NRB seeks to effectively minister to the spiritual welfare of the United States of America.

Ms. Sohn, nominee to the FCC, is an activist lawyer who has made no secret of her contempt for conservative media. As a professional association that exists to keep platforms open for Christian communicators, we have serious concern about Ms. Sohn's demonstrated hostility to broadcasters and her apparent openness to the use of FCC regulatory action to censor ideas that she personally disagrees with.

NRB's membership represents hundreds of local radio and television stations, industries that are highly regulated by the FCC. Our members are Christian and conservative media networks and stations, and our association works to keep these channels of mass communication open for Christian communicators to speak freely. Ms. Sohn has openly expressed that she views the regulatory agency to which she has been nominated as a potential instrument for censoring views with which she disagrees — for example, by jeopardizing broadcast licenses to limit what kinds of political perspectives can be expressed on-air.ⁱ

This censorious disposition is visible throughout Ms. Sohn's career. Ms. Sohn is the founder and former president of Public Knowledge, a public interest advocacy organization. This organization demanded, with extreme vitriol, that AT&T and other carriers drop conservative outlets from their programming lineups, despite the fact that Public Knowledge once joined forces with these same conservative media outlets to oppose media market monopolies that risk reducing press diversity.ⁱⁱ The historic animosity toward political

dissent expressed by Ms. Sohn and her organization plants extreme doubt that the free speech interests of religious broadcasters, such as the organizations we represent, would be protected on Ms. Sohn's watch.

In light of controversy over Ms. Sohn's involvement on the board of directors of now-defunct Locast, Ms. Sohn has pledged her temporary and voluntary recusal from broadcast television and retransmission consent issues for the first three years of her term if confirmed. In addition to our concerns about Ms. Sohn's hostility to the First Amendment and potential risk this creates for religious broadcasters, NRB observes that this recusal sidelines her from key regulatory issues that are part and parcel of serving on the FCC.

NRB respectfully urges the Senate to vote against the confirmation of Gigi Sohn to the Federal Communications Commission.

Sincerely,



Troy A. Miller
CEO

cc:

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
The Honorable Roger Wicker
All United States Senators

ⁱ <https://twitter.com/gigibsohn/status/1053982573813264384>

ⁱⁱ <https://publicknowledge.org/why-cable-and-satellite-providers-should-drop-one-america-news-network/>