



February 6, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Cantwell, and Ranking Member Cruz:

Our diversity is our power. LGBTQ Victory Institute and the undersigned organizations representing a wide and diverse array of backgrounds and industries write to express our continued support and excitement for the nomination of Gigi Sohn as Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner. Gigi was first nominated over a year ago, on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and it is past time that she join the FCC and use her tremendous qualifications for the betterment of our country.

The Biden-Harris Administration made clear earlier this year that they are in full support of Gigi's historic nomination when they nominated her for a third time. We share the Administration's view that Gigi is the right leader for this role given her extensive qualifications, superior leadership qualities, and deep technical background.

A fully-functioning FCC that can advance broadband access, ensure all voices are heard, and protect all Americans' privacy is critically important to not just one community or demographic, but to our entire nation. Unfortunately, the FCC remains short of the critical fifth Commissioner since the beginning of the Biden-Harris Administration. Ultimately, this negatively impacts each and every American.

Gigi is one of the nation's leading public advocates for open, affordable, and democratic communications networks. She demonstrated her dedication to ensuring that every American household has affordable and robust broadband internet for thirty years. Gigi has worked across the country to defend and preserve the fundamental competition and innovation policies that have made broadband internet access more ubiquitous, competitive, affordable, open, and protective of user privacy. During this time, she has worked across the industry, notably as Counselor to former FCC Chair Tom Wheeler.



Gigi's nomination has recently come under attack, not on the basis of qualifications or substance, but because she is openly LGBTQ+. Her barrier-breaking nomination as the first LGBTQ+ nominee to the FCC is being met with homophobic tropes and attacks, against herself and her family, in an attempt to stall her nomination. That cannot stand.

Over 375 organizations, companies, elected officials, and local governments remain in full support for Gigi. We collectively call upon every Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to consider her qualifications and move her nomination forward expeditiously.

Homophobic and sexist fearmongering should have no place in the consideration of Gigi's qualifications. It's morally corrupt and antithetical to the high virtue of the Chamber.

Americans deserve a full-functioning FCC. We call upon every member of the Senate to condemn homophobia and sexism and consider Gigi's nomination on its merits. We urge Members to confirm Ms. Sohn to the seat she is so qualified for without delay.

Respectfully,

LGBTQ Victory Institute

GLAAD

Equality California

Silver State Equality

Association of LGBTQ+ Corporate Directors

Lambda Legal

Council for Global Equality

Free Press Action

LPAC Action Network

United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry

FORGE, Inc.

LGBTQ Bar Association

Center for Disability Rights

Pride at Work

Human Rights Campaign

Equality Federation

Athlete Ally



PFLAG National

National Center for Transgender Equality

Family Equality

LGBT Technology Partnership

National LGBTQ Task Force