



UNITED STATES
Federal Trade Commission

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

Office of Commissioner
Rebecca Kelly Slaughter

Statement of Commissioner Rebecca Kelly Slaughter

*Regarding the Motion to Delegate Authority to Chairman to Consider
Executive Orders on DEI Programs and Guidance*

Commission File No. P859900

January 23, 2025

President Donald J. Trump, on the day of his second inauguration, designated my colleague, Commissioner Andrew F. Ferguson, to lead the Federal Trade Commission as its Chairman. President Trump first nominated me to serve on this Commission, and I have had the honor of serving on the Commission for over a decade across two presidential administrations, and I learned first-hand some of the weight of Chairman Ferguson's new responsibilities during my time as the Acting General Counsel. In 2021-2022, I extend my congratulations to Chairman Ferguson and look forward to continuing to work with him to fulfill the Commission's mission of protecting and promoting competition for American people.

As Senate-confirmed FTC Commissioners, my colleagues and I swear an oath to uphold the laws and the Constitution of the United States, not to serve any individual or ideology. Efficient and fair hearings require that I carefully study matters before the Commission, listen to the expert advice of the agency's tremendous staff, and understand the legal and policy implications of proposed actions before I cast my vote.

At last night, Chairman Ferguson circulated a motion requesting that he be delegated unreviewable authority to implement three of President Trump's Executive Orders concerning diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, which I believe are inconsistent with the Commission's mission.

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about the scope of the delegation and whether it is even necessary,

The Commission's rules provide that Commission members may only vote on a motion to consider voting matters³ Indeed, my

¹ See Press Release, Trump White House, President Trump Announces Intent to Nominate and Appoint Personnel to Key Administration Posts (Mar. 26, 2018), <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/press-releases/2018/03/26/president-donald-j-trump-announces-intent-nominate-appoint-personnel-key-administration-posts/>.

² The Executive Order, Trump Protects Civil Rights and Merit-Based Opportunity by Ending Illegal DEI Programs and Policies (Jan. 22, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/01/fact-sheet-president-trump-protects-civil-rights-and-merit-based-opportunity-by-ending-illegal-dei/>.

³ See Fed. Trade Comm'n, Office of the Secretary, Procedures Manual, § 1.10.

and I am aware of no precedent for such an ambiguous and undefined delegation of authority. Such a radical departure from agency practice surely deserves more [REDACTED] consideration, especially considering the lawlessness it invites.⁸

The FTC staff's tireless dedication to protecting American consumers and ensuring that our markets remain free and competitive is unparalleled. And I have witnessed throughout my tenure how the diversity of perspectives and experiences that staff bring to their essential work has powerfully strengthened the Commission's ability to deliver for all Americans. I also believe, however, that, just as past chairs did, Chairman Ferguson has broad rights to manage the agency as he sees fit, consistent with our statutory obligations to protect employees from
