



February 25, 2021

The Honorable David N. Cicilline
Chairman, House Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust,
Commercial, and Administrative Law
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Buck
Ranking Member, House Judiciary
Subcommittee on Antitrust,
Commercial, and Administrative Law
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cicilline and Ranking Member Buck:

New America's Open Technology Institute (OTI) works at the intersection of technology and policy to ensure that every community has equitable access to digital technologies that are open and secure. We commend the subcommittee's thorough investigation of competition in digital markets, including today's hearing entitled, "Reviving Competition, Part 1: Proposals to Address Gatekeeper Power and Lower Barriers to Entry Online." We submit the following comments and attached report for the record to highlight the importance of interoperability.

Interoperability can be a pro-competitive tool that lowers barriers to entry in digital markets. The foundation of the internet was built on interoperability, from the Hypertext Transmission Protocol (HTTP) to email. As platforms have become dominant in various markets, they have undermined this foundational principle.

Both the majority and minority reports from the subcommittee's groundbreaking study of digital markets recognize the importance of interoperability in fostering competition in the digital economy. OTI agrees with the majority report's conclusion that interoperability requirements would complement—not replace—vigorous enforcement and improvement of antitrust laws. Accordingly, we urge Congress to make the creation of federal interoperability rules a high legislative priority.

Please find attached OTI's report entitled, "Promoting Platform Interoperability," which explains how interoperability works, what privacy considerations exist, and how interoperability

can increase competition in digital markets. Thank you for your leadership on these issues and we look forward to supporting your work to reinvigorate competition in our markets.

Sincerely,

/s/

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