

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CHRISTINE S. WILSON, NOMINEE FOR COMMISSIONER,  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Nelson, members of the Committee, I am deeply honored to have been nominated by President Trump to serve as a Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission. Thank you for the time that you and your staff have spent meeting with me, and for inviting the four FTC nominees to appear here today.

I am joined by my husband, Ramsey Wilson; my daughters, Regan Wilson and Savannah Wilson; my niece, MicKayla Smith; and my in-laws, Tom and Kate Mason.

If confirmed, serving as Commissioner will be my third job at the FTC. I first spent time at the FTC as a law clerk in the Bureau of Competition while in law school. I returned to the FTC as Chief of Staff to Chairman Timothy J. Muris during the first term of President George W. Bush.

These previous roles helped me understand the pride that FTC personnel rightly take in their agency and in their mission. Although it has fewer than 1,200 FTEs, the FTC tackles issues of daily importance to Americans in every walk of life. Deploying its finite resources to maximum advantage, the FTC promotes and protects the interests of consumers by ensuring the effective operation of markets, and it typically does so in a bipartisan way. But the agency — which the Washington Post disparaged as the “National Nanny” during the 1970s — must be careful to wield its power appropriately. To use a sports analogy coined by then-Chairman Muris, the FTC must avoid trading its role as referee of our markets for one as a manager of, or a star player in, those markets.

The FTC recently entered its second century. In the coming years, the agency has much important work ahead of it to continue protecting consumers, including preserving competition in health care markets; staying abreast of technological advances and tailoring the FTC’s advocacy and enforcement efforts accordingly; and promoting the sound economic analysis of competition and consumer protection issues both domestically and internationally.

Each of us, if confirmed, will bring his or her experiences and perspectives to the role of Commissioner. One of the most notable experiences for me occurred in 1984. Ronald Reagan was our President, I was in high school, and I took what would become a formative trip behind the Iron Curtain. During this three-week trip, I saw first-hand the long lines, empty shelves, and misery inflicted by an authoritarian government and a command and control economy. I finished that trip an ardent advocate for personal liberty and market economies.

That trip through Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union was the first in a series of events that ultimately led me here today. Other important milestones on that path are attributable to distinguished mentors with whom I have been blessed — University of Florida Professor Roger D. Blair, who taught my first antitrust law and economics class and who opened my eyes to the possibility of a career in this field; Professor Steven C. Salop, an antitrust economist whose classes I took and for whom I worked as a research assistant while at Georgetown Law; James F. Rill, the former DOJ Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust for whom I worked after graduating from law school; and Timothy J. Muris, the FTC Chairman for whom I served as Chief of Staff. Each of them was instrumental in enhancing my understanding of antitrust and consumer protection law and policy. I am deeply indebted to them.

Thank you for considering my nomination. I look forward to answering your questions.