

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER ROHIT CHOPRA**

*Regarding the Commission's Votes to Appoint Senior Leadership<sup>1</sup>*

Alden Abbott to serve as General Counsel and Bruce Kobayashi as Director of the Bureau of Economics

I congratulate Alden and Bruce on their appointment to serve in these roles. While we may have differing views on certain issues, I know that their beliefs are motivated by advancing the public interest. I look forward to them contributing to the agency's bipartisan mission.

Bruce Hoffman to serve as Director of the Bureau of Competition

I'm grateful that Bruce will be continuing to provide steady and strong leadership over the Bureau of Competition. His past experience in the private sector will be a true asset to the Commission as we pursue those in violation of our nation's antitrust laws.

I am particularly eager to work with him to ensure compliance with FTC orders and to take aggressive action when these orders are flouted.

Andrew Smith to serve as Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection

One of the most consequential decisions the FTC makes is the choice for Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection.

The Director should be our quarterback on the agency's top priorities. But, I fear our quarterback will be spending too much time on the sidelines.

Industry lawyers can be a key weapon in an enforcer's arsenal. But, in this case, it may prove to be a liability, both substantively and in terms of public trust.

Andrew Smith's list of conflicts of interest raises many questions. He may be unable to participate in some of the FTC's high-profile and consequential matters of intense public interest.

We will not be able to fully utilize Andrew's significant experience, talents, and qualifications.

I am particularly concerned about key rulemakings and broad policy matters that the FTC is pursuing. While Andrew Smith may not *technically* be prohibited from working on these matters, his participation may raise the appearance of a conflict, undermining the hard work and analysis our staff conducts. The Commission should prioritize addressing these appearances of conflict *before* ethical quandaries arise.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Reorganization Plan No. 8 of 1950 vests authority in the Commission to approve the appointment of certain senior leaders of the Federal Trade Commission.

For decades, FTC Chairs have put forth senior leadership picks that attract unanimous, bipartisan support. This significant break with precedent is concerning. Our most critical personnel pick was made without a Commission meeting. I don't believe this is an effective model for decision-making, particularly given our agency's long track record of reaching consensus. I'm hopeful it is one we will not repeat.

That said, if and when Andrew Smith is sworn in, I stand ready to work with him to lead our Bureau of Consumer Protection. Consumers and honest companies expect nothing less.