

FTC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remarks  
Chairwoman Edith Ramirez  
Washington, DC  
September 26, 2014

One hundred years ago to the day, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Trade Commission Act. It was the height of the Progressive Era, and the Commission, from its inception, was imbued with operating principles based on the best thinking of the greatest minds of that movement.

The FTC's commitment to protecting competition and consumers springs from the Progressives' desire to democratize markets – to make sure they weren't controlled by the few, the wealthy at the expense of the small business and the middle class.

And our dedication to bipartisan and well informed action is a direct result of the Progressives' push to put in place a public policy framework based on the dispassionate decisions of experts in the new social sciences – to replace corruption and cronyism with consensus based on fact and reasoned analysis.

I can't tell you how special today is for me. Like many of you who are here today, I am an American history enthusiast. And I have always been fascinated with the Progressive Era.

When I first joined the agency, I could barely contain my excitement at the idea of working in an agency that embodies the core values of the Progressive Movement.

And working at the Commission has exceeded my every expectation. This is a place that President Wilson and Justice Brandeis would recognize as fulfilling their dream of a government agency that uses reason and bipartisanship to ensure a fair and honest marketplace for all businesses and consumers, regardless of size or wealth.

And that's primarily because of all of you – the extraordinary staff of the FTC.

Jane Addams, another Progressive Era leader, once said, “Action indeed is the sole medium of expression for ethics.”

She could have been talking about FTC employees – every one of you, in every position at every one of our offices across the country. It is your actions – your dedication to public service, your hard work, and your enthusiasm – that is the reason we have an agency today that would make our forefathers proud.

So we have a lot to celebrate – and a lot of cake to celebrate it with.

Happy 100th, FTC!