



November 29, 2012

Sen. Jay Rockefeller  
Chairman  
Senate Commerce Committee  
Hart Senate Office Building 531  
Washington, DC  
20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller:

I am writing on behalf of Consumer Watchdog to urge you to oppose the nomination of Dr. Joshua Wright to the Federal Trade Commission. Simply put, Wright has repeatedly advocated against laws and regulations that protect consumers and has argued against strong antitrust enforcement. Worse, he has a record of support for, and financial ties to, Google, whose activities are one of the major ongoing issues confronting the Commission. The next Commissioner should be a truly disinterested party who would consider only facts gathered by the FTC staff when making a decision. Wright is not such an individual; he is widely on record as opposing antitrust action against Google and has been funded by organizations that receive money from the company.

Wright is the research director and a board member of the International Center for Law and Economics (ICLE), which receives funds from Google. He has authored or co-authored several white papers supporting Google that were funded by ICLE. Wright is a Senior Adjunct Fellow at TechFreedom.org, a self-described "technology policy think tank," which also receives Google money. It makes no sense to approve a nominee who would have to recuse himself from any decisions about what the Commission should do about the Internet giant's abuses.

The Federal Trade Commission is an enforcement agency that must act in the public interest to protect consumers. Wright has been an advocate of an anti-regulatory, hands-off approach that would ill serve consumers. He opposed the landmark Dodd-Frank Act and is hostile to that reform's greatest achievement for consumers, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Undoubtedly he would work to thwart any cooperation between the FTC and the CFPB.

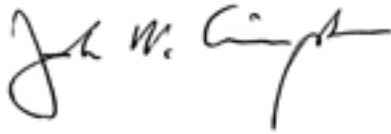
Wright has spoken out against the need for a Do Not Track mechanism to protect consumers' online privacy, a key recommendation in the Commission's landmark report, *Protecting Consumer Privacy in an Era of Rapid Change*.

The Federal Trade Commission has a tradition of acting in a bipartisan manner in its effort to protect consumers. Naturally, Commissioners have brought a variety of philosophical

approaches to the agency, but generally have been able to operate within a broad consensus on many key issues. Wright, we believe, falls outside that mainstream and would be unable to make effective contributions to the agency.

He is outspokenly opposed to what is likely to be the FTC's most significant case in the next few years, has financial ties to the target of likely Commission action and has opposed meaningful consumer protection legislation. We cannot imagine a nominee who is more ill suited to serve as a Commissioner. We call on you to oppose Wright's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John M. Simpson  
Privacy Project Director