Remarks of Chair Lina M. Khan Regarding
Combatting Online Harms Through Innovation Report
Commission File No. P214501

June 16, 2022

I am very grateful to the Bureau of Consumer Protection's Division of Advertising Practices for conducting both deep research and extensive interviews with stakeholders, including government partners. I also want to thank Michael Atleson for primarily authoring this report. While Congress tasked us with determining whether artificial intelligence (AI) could be used to combat a broad range of online harms, several of which fall outside of our jurisdiction, the team put together a nuanced report that carefully details the current state of findings and research.

As AI tools continue to become more widely adopted across the economy and across contexts, deepening our agency's expertise in this area will be critical. I am grateful for the expertise we have already built, and I am thrilled that we've been able to build up our group of technologists and researchers who specialize in AI. Understanding how these tools can be used and misused, including through unlawful business practices that the FTC is charged with prohibiting, is of paramount importance.

On the substance, I recommend that those interested in this topic read this informative and comprehensive report. I will note that I especially appreciated the observation that while almost all of the harms that Congress listed far preceded the internet and are not themselves the product of AI, newer technologies do appear to play a key role in amplifying and exacerbating many of these harms, including sometimes by design. This in particular is a key area where we should deepen our understanding, including of the business models that can incentivize these practices.

Thanks again to the team for their terrific work on this report.

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