

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS February 8, 2023

MICHAEL MCHALE President Florida Police Benevolent Association

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MARK YOUNG Vice President, Associate Members Detroit Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association

JAMES PALMER Parliamentarian Wisconsin Professional Police Association

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE Executive Director and General Counsel Chair Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell

The Honorable Ted Cruz Ranking Member Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) and the more than 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers we represent across the United States, I am writing to advise you of our serious concerns with the nomination of Gigi Sohn to serve as a commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Ms. Sohn has a significant record of supporting anti-law enforcement statements on social media. In July of 2020, for example, during the riots in Portland, Oregon, she retweeted a tweet criticizing federal law enforcement officers as "armed goons in riot gear with tear gas" while defending rioters who carried gas masks and shields. Further, over the past several years, she has retweeted tweets calling for the "defunding of police". This shows an anti-police bias that should disqualify her as an official in the federal government.

As a private citizen, our Constitution affords Ms. Sohn the right to hold and express these views. However, it is profoundly concerning to us that a nominee for commissioner of the FCC has harbored such an openly hostile and defamatory view of police. If Ms. Sohn is confirmed to this position, there is no way to assure those views will not be perpetuated.

We want to move forward with improving our relationship with our communities and enhance their trust in our profession, but if such sentiments are held by high-ranking members federal government, this will be difficult to do. The men and women of the law enforcement community put their lives on the line every day to serve and protect their communities and they deserve the support and respect of their government.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns, and we urge you to stand with us in opposition to the nomination of Ms. Sohn to be a FCC commissioner. If you would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson, Esq. Executive Director