



Grover G. Norquist

President

Comments Regarding Commission Issues for Study

September 9, 2004

Deborah A Garza
Chairman, Antitrust Modernization Commission
1001 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Commissioner Garza:

I write today on behalf of Americans for Tax Reform to express public comment about the investigations and activities of the Antitrust Modernization Commission.

United States law on antitrust extends back to 1890. Other nations and trade regions have antitrust laws often not commensurate with our own. In an increasingly global and interconnected marketplace, multinational companies must be able to serve twenty-first century customers free of Victorian-era nationalist restraints. Furthermore, the pace of technological change means that any attempt to alter laws to keep up with reality are outdated the moment they are enacted.

High technology firms, in particular, face unique challenges on antitrust. Often, high technology products take years to grow a competitive service marketplace. High technology companies must collaborate in order to develop products. The idea-driven nature of the industry invites constant competition. Consumers tend to flock to high technology products, leading to increased market share from the ground up.

In light of these and other challenges, it seems clear that antitrust laws, if they ever served a useful purpose, now only exist to stifle productivity growth and development of new products and services. I suggest that the focus of your commission should be to examine ways to break down barriers to competition, and to encourage our trading partners to do the same.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist
President

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