

January 18, 2022

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Delivered Via Email

Re: Confirmation of Alvaro Bedoya as Commissioner of Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Dear U.S. Senators:

We write to offer our strongest possible support for **Alvaro Bedoya** to serve as FTC Commissioner. We urge the Senate's swift action to move forward with Mr. Bedoya's confirmation before the end of the month given the importance of his role at the intersection of privacy, technology, and civil rights issues.

Mr. Bedoya has years of relevant experience, in legal and policy work in both the public and private sectors, including his tenure as the Chief Counsel for the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law. In this capacity, he conducted oversight on critical consumer privacy legislation that included oversight on mobile location privacy and biometrics, drafted bipartisan legislation to protect victims of sexual assault, and drafted portions of the bipartisan National Security Agency reform law, the USA FREEDOM Act. Mr. Bedoya currently serves as the Founding Director of the Center on Privacy and Technology at the Georgetown University Law Center, where he is also a Visiting Professor of Law. In this role, he has continued to be a critical consumer privacy advocate

In 2016, he co-authored *The Perpetual Line-Up: Unregulated Police Face Recognition in America*, a year-long investigation on the race and gender bias endemic in facing police face-scanning software. The report led to a series of House Oversight hearings, as well as a slate of laws reining in technology across the country, and the first-ever comprehensive bias audit of technology by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Mr. Bedoya's most recent law review article, *Privacy as Civil Rights*, 50 *New Mexico Law Review* 301 (2020), was added to the seventh edition of *Information Privacy Law*, the nation's leading privacy casebook, along with four other casebooks. Mr. Bedoya has also led the creation of the "Color of Surveillance" conference at Georgetown University, which addressed the effects of surveillance on communities of color.

Mr. Bedoya is also a longtime immigrant rights advocate himself. American immigrants are subject to intense corporate and government surveillance and are often the targets of scams and other fraudulent schemes. Professor Bedoya has been a leading voice in highlighting this problem, researching it, and trying to stop it.

As an immigrant and naturalized citizen born in Lima, Peru, his life's experience and upbringing have given him a unique perspective on the hardships faced by many American families. He understands the difference that critical leadership can play in advocating for Americans and strengthening policy and decision making at the Federal Trade Commission.

In order for the FTC to effectively protect consumers by stopping unfair practices and data abuse, FTC Commissioners must understand how privacy and surveillance laws affect the daily realities of Latinos, other communities of color, and the public overall. Given Mr. Bedoya's extensive expertise on issues related to bias in technology, his confirmation will serve as an important step towards ensuring that the FTC takes into account the impact of its consumer protection activities on Latinos and all of our nation's diverse communities. Mr. Bedoya is uniquely qualified to serve as FTC Commissioner. As such, we strongly urge you to move forward with Mr. Bedoya's confirmation hearings for FTC Commissioner, in the interest of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Arturo Vargas - CEO, NALEO Educational Fund

Brenda Victoria Castillo - President & CEO, National Hispanic Media Coalition

Greisa Martinez Rosas - Executive Director, United We Dream

Janet Murguía - President & CEO, UnidosUS

Jessica J. González - Co-CEO, Free Press Action

Dr. Juan Andrade Jr. - President, United States Hispanic Leadership Institute

Melissa R. Morales - Executive Director, Somos Votantes

Sergio Gonzales - Executive Director, The Immigration Hub

Sindy M. Benavides - CEO, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)