



February 9, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Cantwell, and Ranking Member Cruz:

Log Cabin Republicans, on behalf of more than 3,000,000 LGBT Republicans, conservatives, and independents, write to express our deep concerns regarding the nomination of Gigi Sohn as Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner. Since her initial nomination in 2021, it has become increasingly clear that Ms. Sohn's partisan comments, alarming views on censorship, and questionable ethical judgment are incompatible with the cardinal principles and responsibilities of the FCC.

While we acknowledge the historic nature of Ms. Sohn's nomination, we also recognize that simply being LGBT is not a qualification and to suggest otherwise would be an insult to the qualified and capable LGBT people in various industries across the country. Moreover, Sohn's proponents do an incredible disservice to her and to the LGBT community when they accuse Senators, who are raising completely legitimate concerns about her record, of "homophobia" and "bigotry." LGBT Americans, just like everyone else, want to be fairly measured on our merits, not our sexuality. Using Sohn's identity to shield her from genuine criticism steps our entire community back from the equality we have fought so hard to achieve.

Indeed, far more consequential than Ms. Sohn's sexuality is her track record.

Ms. Sohn has a long history of advocating for policies that would stifle innovation and competition in the broadband market and restrict the free speech rights of individuals and organizations. Furthermore, her close ties to certain special interest groups raise questions about her impartiality and ability to fairly consider all perspectives in her role as FCC Commissioner.

One particularly concerning issue with Ms. Sohn is her tenure at the non-profit organization Locast, which streamed local broadcast TV stations online without obtaining proper licenses. Despite the fact that Locast's business model was heavily reliant on legal gray areas, Ms. Sohn actively promoted the organization. Worse still, Locast faced a legal challenge and was ordered to suspend operations and pay \$32 million in damages to broadcasters; however, the day after Ms. Sohn was announced as a nominee for FCC Commissioner, the settlement was generously renegotiated to just \$700,000.

Sohn's support for and leadership of an organization that operated illegally suggests that she is not the impartial and balanced leader that the FCC requires and raises serious questions about her views on intellectual property. The renegotiation of the settlement her organization had to pay just a day after her nomination was announced also creates a troubling possibility of an unethical conflict of interest and abuse of power.

In addition to her questionable dealings with Locast, Ms. Sohn has a long history of advocating for government censorship and the restriction of free speech. She supported net neutrality regulations that would have stifled innovation and competition in the broadband market. She has also openly discussed the censorship of major American media outlets and picked clear favorites based on her political preferences in the U.S. media market.

The legitimacy of the FCC requires its commissioners to create policy with impartiality and a fair and balanced approach to government regulation. Ms. Sohn's views and actions are incompatible with these principles. Her proponents may know it too, which is why they are falsely accusing her opponents of homophobia.

We strongly urge the Senate to ignore these baseless accusations, judge Sohn on her merits, and reject her nomination.

Respectfully,



Charles T. Moran
President