

January 25, 2023

Mr. Ron Klain
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Brian Deese
Director, National Economic Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Klain and Mr. Deese:

As a collection of trade associations representing a broad cross-section of the innovation economy, we write to you regarding the vacancy on the National Economic Council following the recent departure of Special Assistant to the President for Technology and Competition Policy, Tim Wu.

As we enter 2023, American technology companies face an unprecedented polycrisis created by a weak economy, high inflation and energy costs, and growing national security and competitiveness threats from rival nations. While recent headlines have highlighted a record number of mass layoffs from large US technology firms, these challenges impact companies of all sizes.

In such a precarious economic environment, we would urge that any individual appointed to support the growth of the digital economy, be committed to helping American technology firms, both small and large, thrive and succeed. Candidates should recognize American tech companies for what they are: key US economic and national security assets.

When surveyed on their priorities for government action, overwhelming majorities of Americans rank regulation of technology companies near the bottom of their list. More, the November election results showed Americans want the government to focus on fixing the economy and stopping inflation, not breaking or degrading technology services that millions love and rely on. As this Administration stated in January 2022, “we oppose efforts specifically designed to target only U.S. companies where similarly situated non-U.S. companies would not be covered.” We agree.

Rather than attempting to weaken leading US tech firms, we encourage the NEC to focus on the issues that will help our economy rebound: fixing supply chains, promoting domestic manufacturing, ensuring stable and low-cost energy sources, and maximizing export opportunities for US businesses.

The United States is home to many of the world's leading technology firms and a dynamic startup economy. The selection of personnel firmly committed to maintaining American innovation leadership will strengthen our nation and help jumpstart our economic recovery.

Sincerely,



Gary Shapiro
President and CEO
Consumer Technology Association



Linda Moore
President and CEO
TechNet



Matthew Schruers
President
Computer & Communications Industry Association



Steve DelBianco
President and CEO
NetChoice