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June 18, 2021

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Chair
Subcommittee on Competition
Policy, Antitrust, & Consumer
Rights
425 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Lee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Competition
Policy, Antitrust, & Consumer
Rights
361A Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David N. Cicilline
Chair
Subcommittee on Antitrust,
Commercial and Administrative
Law
2233 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Buck
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Antitrust,
Commercial and Administrative
Law
2455 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for the State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act of 2021

Dear Chairs Klobuchar and Cicilline and Ranking Members Lee and
Buck:

We write to express our strong support for the State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act of 2021; H.R. 3460, S.1787. State attorneys general around the country are actively pursuing significant antitrust enforcement actions on behalf of consumers in their respective states. Although these law enforcement actions are brought in the public interest, they may be subject to transfer to a multidistrict litigation at the behest of defendants, where the cases are typically postponed and may be joined with numerous other lawsuits brought by private plaintiffs. Enforcement actions filed by the Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission on behalf of the United States, however, cannot be transferred to a multidistrict litigation. 28 U.S.C. § 1407(g). Federal enforcers are entitled to select and remain in their preferred venue and pursue relief without undue delay and distractions caused by the particularized interests of private plaintiffs. State antitrust enforcement actions should be extended the same protections from transfer as those brought on behalf of the United States.

As Congress has recognized, the states play an essential role in the enforcement of competition laws in the United States. States should accordingly be on equal footing with federal enforcers in deciding where, when, and how to prosecute cases. We appreciate your sponsorship of the State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act of 2021 and advocate for its passage as soon as possible so that our citizens can benefit from more efficient, effective, and timely adjudication of antitrust actions.

Sincerely,



Phil Weiser
Colorado Attorney General



Jeff Landry
Louisiana Attorney General



Treg R. Taylor
Alaska Attorney General



Rob Bonta
California Attorney General



Karl A. Racine
District of Columbia Attorney General



Christopher M. Carr
Georgia Attorney General



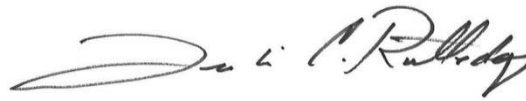
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William Tong
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Ken Paxton
Texas Attorney General



Leslie Rutledge
Arkansas Attorney General



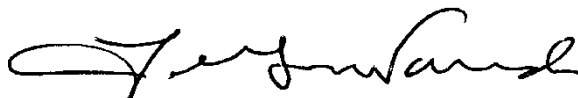
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Pennsylvania Attorney General

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