



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

March 7, 2012

The Honorable John L. Mica  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick Joe Rahall II  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Denham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency  
Management  
585 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency  
Management  
585 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As Members of the bipartisan Federal Trade Commission, we write to express our grave concern with the proposed Committee Resolution, to be considered tomorrow, directing the Administrator of General Services to work on a plan to move the FTC headquarters and its other Washington, DC operations into Constitution Center, a privately-owned building at 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW. To require the agency to move out of its historic headquarters building at 600 Pennsylvania, NW, which still suits the agency and its mission, would impose well over \$100 million in wholly unnecessary costs. This unprecedented giveaway would be completely contrary to the interests of American taxpayers, especially in this time of fiscal austerity.

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As you are aware, underlying this proposal is a plan to transfer the FTC's historic headquarters building—a valuable federal asset—to provide the space for a major expansion of the National Gallery of Art. The National Gallery's two existing buildings were paid for with private funds, while the FTC Building is owned by the taxpayers. The building was recently appraised at a value of between \$92 and \$95 million. We are aware of no precedent for ousting a federal agency from a federally-owned building that fully meets its needs into privately-owned space.

Moreover, we have estimated the cost to move the FTC out of its headquarters building alone at between \$60 and \$80 million. Because this headquarters move would be to private, leased space, these considerable moving costs could recur every time the lease expires.

Finally, while the FTC has worked with GSA to cut its space requirements to meet new, reduced space standards for federal agencies, it is completely infeasible for the FTC to shoehorn its entire Washington, DC operation into the available space at Constitution Center.

We urge you to consider the costs to American taxpayers as you review this matter.

Sincerely,

Jon Leibowitz  
Chairman

J. Thomas Rosch  
Commissioner

Edith Ramirez  
Commissioner

Julie Brill  
Commissioner