



November 25, 2020

President-Elect Joe Biden
Transition Team Offices
Washington, DC

Via Email to: [Gautam Raghavan](mailto:graghavan@jbrpt.org) (graghavan@jbrpt.org)

Dear President-Elect Biden,

Once again, congratulations on your overwhelming victory! Your win is vital in the effort to restore dignity, safety, and decent jobs to millions of working people across the country.

As you know, the Communications Workers of America (CWA) was very enthusiastic about your focus throughout the campaign on the rights and conditions facing working people, and your making broadband deployment a top infrastructure priority. CWA knows better than any other organization how these two policy priorities relate to one another, and how broadband policy can address the three crises our nation faces: economic, racial injustice, and the pandemic. In this spirit, I am writing to urge you to appoint Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel to Chair of the Federal Communications Commission and Debbie Goldman as FCC Commissioner. In these roles, Jessica and Debbie will be the best people to help move your vision forward to encourage the equitable deployment of next-generation broadband networks while protecting consumers and good jobs in the telecommunications industry.

Commissioner Rosenworcel has used her position at the FCC to fight for greater access to telecommunications services for all Americans. Too often, FCC commissioners accept the marketing pitches of telecom lobbyists without question. Jessica digs for the truth behind the numbers and understands the needs and concerns of the people who are most affected by the FCC's decisions – teachers and students, health care workers and patients, first responders and small businesses, and tens of thousands of telecom and media workers, including CWA members. She has raised awareness of and fought to close the Homework Gap.

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Many teachers assign homework that requires an internet connection -- and that was before the pandemic forced millions to learn from home. Now, the Homework Gap may become an education gap, as millions of students without broadband access are not able to attend distance-learning classes. Jessica has been fighting for these students long before COVID-19, and for years she's been designing creative ways to solve the problem.

Jessica has also drawn attention to problems with the FCC's data on broadband access. She knows that we can't close the digital divide if we don't have accurate and reliable broadband maps showing us where people have broadband access and where they don't. She has fought to protect, update, and expand the Lifeline program, which connects low-income households to critical telecommunications services, which is especially important during the current public health and economic crises. Jessica is the voice of both consumers and workers at the FCC. She has welcomed CWA members into her office to provide perspective on what is really going on in the communities we serve. Her focus on greater opportunity, accessibility, and affordability in our communications services and her tireless advocacy on behalf of workers and consumers has never been more important.

If Commissioner Rosenworcel is appointed to Chair, her commissioner seat should be filled by someone with a deep commitment to workers in the telecommunications industry. Debbie Goldman is the right person to help our nation build back better. Debbie has worked in the labor movement for 32 years, using her intellect and dedication to build power for workers, and spent decades as a telecommunications public policy leader.

Debbie Goldman served most recently as CWA's Director of Research and Telecommunications Policy Director. For 22 years, Debbie directed our telecommunications policy program on behalf of more than 200,000 CWA-represented employees working for wireline, wireless, cable, and equipment companies. With the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the industry entered a period of rapid changes. Since that time, Debbie has been at the forefront of campaigns protecting consumers and workers in the midst of deregulation. Beginning more than a decade ago, Debbie designed, coordinated, and led Speed Matters, CWA's national campaign to bring affordable, high-speed broadband to all Americans. She worked to build consensus on an open internet policy.

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She wrote testimony and legal briefs on telecommunications and media issues before Congress, state legislatures, and state regulatory commissions.

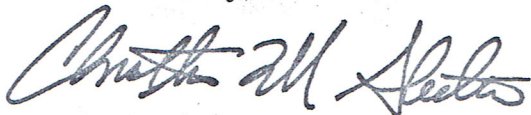
She contributed hundreds of filings to Federal Communications Commission dockets, ensuring that workers' voices were heard on essential public policy matters. She was part of the Broadband Subcommittee of the Biden Campaign's Innovation Policy Team (2020) and the Biden for President North Carolina Democratic Party Voter Protection Team (2020). She served on the FCC's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (2018), its Consumer Advisory Committee (2015-16), on the Obama for President Technology and Telecommunications Policy Advisory Committee (2008), the Democratic Party Platform Committee (2004), and the Clinton Presidential Transition Team for the FCC (1992). She also served as President of the Alliance for Public Technology (2004).

Before coming to CWA, Debbie had developed deep public policy expertise as Public Policy Director of the AFL-CIO's Public Employee Department. There Debbie coordinated research and advocacy for the public policy program of 33 public sector AFL-CIO-affiliated unions on issues related to tax, budget, economic development, work and family, working women, and public sector organizational rights. She authored *Solutions for the New Workforce: Policies for a New Social Contract*, a book analyzing the impact of corporate and government policy on U.S. workers and outlining policy solutions in the area of work and family, job training, pay, employee benefits, worker participation, and health and safety.

Given their significant qualifications and deep commitments to consumers and workers in the telecommunications industry, I strongly urge you to appoint Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel as Chair and Debbie Goldman as Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission. Together they will be extremely effective in advancing your agenda to get America back on track.

Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request on behalf of CWA members across the country who dedicate their lives to delivering connectivity to consumers.

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Shelton
President