

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1261

Of inquiry requesting the President to provide certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to communications and directives with the Federal Trade Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Of inquiry requesting the President to provide certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to communications and directives with the Federal Trade Commission.

1 *Resolved*, That the President of the United States is
2 requested to furnish the House of Representatives, not
3 later than 14 days after the date of adoption of this reso-
4 lution, copies of any document, record, audio recording,
5 memorandum, call log, correspondence (electronic or oth-
6 erwise), or other communication in his possession, or any
7 portion of any document, record, audio recording, memo-
8 randum, call log, correspondence (electronic or otherwise),

1 or other communication, that refers or relates to the fol-
2 lowing:

3 (1) The decision of the Federal Trade Commis-
4 sion (FTC) to delete “without unduly burdening le-
5 gitimate business activity” from the FTC’s draft
6 strategy plan for fiscal years 2022 to 2026, as such
7 language has been included in FTC mission state-
8 ments for decades, through both Republican and
9 Democrat administrations.

10 (2) The FTC’s goals changing from its tradi-
11 tional focus on protecting consumers from fraud, as
12 well as ensuring businesses have clear rules to fol-
13 low, in favor of an unorthodox interpretation of its
14 antitrust mission to reshape the United States econ-
15 omy.

16 (3) The FTC’s communications and actions
17 with departing commissioners, including casting so-
18 called “zombie” votes after such individual’s depar-
19 ture, and any use of official resources by such indi-
20 vidual during or after such individual’s departure.

21 (4) Complaints received from career FTC em-
22 ployees regarding being silenced with a “gag rule”
23 as well as being terminated for exercising independ-
24 ence from the FTC Chair’s executive staff.

1 (5) Communication or coordination between the
2 Executive Office of the President and the Federal
3 Trade Commission to initiate a Trade Regulation
4 Rule on Commercial Surveillance.

5 (6) Statement by National Economic Council
6 (NEC special assistant Tim Wu) who reportedly
7 “asked the FTC to see if [you] can craft a rule
8 around data collection”.

9 (7) Transmission from the Federal Trade Com-
10 mission to Office of Information and Regulatory Af-
11 fairs on a Trade Regulation Rule on Commercial
12 Surveillance.

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