AMERICAN PRINCIPLES PROJECT

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cole and Chairwoman Collins:

We, the undersigned conservative leaders and organizations, write to urge you to prioritize a meaningful increase in funding for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in the FY2027 appropriations process. Specifically, we request an appropriation of $575 million, which would allow the agency to take on more work both to protect the public from deceptive and unfair trade practices and from unfair methods of competition and also to deliver even greater value to American consumers and taxpayers.

While conservatives rarely advocate for larger budgets for government agencies, we believe the Federal Trade Commission qualifies as a notable exception because of its ability to yield an exceptional return on investment. Under the strong, principled leadership of Chairman Andrew N. Ferguson, the FTC has transformed into a true profit center for the federal government and for consumers. Last year, the FTC secured a historic $2.5 billion settlement with Amazon, resulting in $1.5 billion in direct refunds to millions of harmed consumers, and $1 billion in civil penalties paid directly to the U.S. Treasury. This single settlement covered the FTC's entire FY2025 budget multiple times over.

But this is what we have come to expect during Chairman Ferguson's tenure: victory after victory for American consumers and workers. Earlier this year, the FTC and Walmart agreed to a $100 million judgment to settle allegations that Walmart had deceived its delivery drivers about compensation by showing them inflated base pay and tip amounts. And last December, the FTC secured a $60 million settlement from Instacart requiring it to cease its deceptive practice of secretly signing up customers to its premium subscription service.

In the housing sector – a major area of concern for working Americans – the Commission secured a $24 million settlement against Greystar, the nation's largest multi-family rental property manager, requiring the company to reimburse renters it had harmed, while also adopting clearer disclosures of rent and mandatory fees. The Commission followed up that announcement with warning letters to 13 property manager software providers nationwide urging them to convey accurate pricing information to allow potential homeowners to make informed homebuying decisions.

These are just a few of the many critical actions the FTC has taken in the last year. But perhaps even more importantly, Chairman Ferguson has prioritized protecting children and families from harm. Under his leadership, the FTC has gone to great lengths to protect families from medical deception. And the agency has aggressively enforced the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). Last December, the FTC announced that Disney would be required to pay $10 million to settle allegations that the company allowed personal data to be collected from children without notifying parents or obtaining their consent. The agency has also issued guidance supporting age-verification technologies to safeguard kids' innocence without punishing lawful innovation, which will encourage companies to take steps to better protect kids online.

As Congress considers its appropriations for the next year, we respectfully urge you to consider boosting the FTC's capacity to serve consumers with an appropriation of $575 million in FY2027. Chairman Ferguson has proven himself a skillful steward of taxpayer dollars, maximizing the FTC's efficiency and effectiveness during his tenure. We have every confidence he will continue to deliver these types of results for both consumers and taxpayers.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. We stand ready to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

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American Principles Project

Paul Dupont
Policy Director
American Principles Project

Joel Thayer
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Digital Progress Institute

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American Energy Leadership Institute Action

All organizations listed for identification purposes only.

CC: House Speaker Mike Johnson
Senate Majority Leader John Thune
House Majority Leader Steve Scalise
Senate Majority Whip John Barrasso
House Majority Whip Tom Emmer