

ROBERT J. WITTMAN

1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER, SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

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CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED TASK FORCE

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CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
RURAL BROADBAND CAUCUS



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2020

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Honorable Makan Delrahim
Assistant Attorney General
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Re: Docket # 63 Civ. 3106, Consent Decree in *US vs Association of Casualty and Surety Companies*

Dear Assistant Attorney General Delrahim,

I am writing today concerning the proposed termination of the consent decree in *US vs Association of Casualty and Surety Companies*. In August of 2019, the Department of Justice proposed a review of around 1,300 antitrust judgements enacted without sunset dates. First of all, I want to thank the Department of Justice, Antitrust Division for, what I understand, is your initiative to terminate consent decrees which have no end dates, are outdated, and no longer continue to promote competition or benefit the consumer. Such decrees ought to be terminated.

I also understand that you have provided a fair process to the public to demonstrate if there are any decrees which do not have end dates but are still necessary, promote competition, and benefit the consumer. Recently I heard from constituents, including small business owners in my district that are in the collision repair business, about the unique nature of the decree above. They advise me, on behalf of their employees and their customers, that this decree is pro-small business, pro-consumer, and pro-competition. It is still necessary to help prevent the anti-competitive activities which originally led to it issuance. Customers would be deprived a competitive market where both a fair price and high quality would be the determining factors of their business. Instead, the consumer market would be driven to only those repair shops who cater most closely to the will of large insurance companies. I think they have made a compelling case that this decree is unique and merits continuation. I hope that in your review, you will consider the views expressed to me, and preserve this decree.

Again, I applaud the Department of Justice's intention to rid our economy of unnecessary and outdated regulations. However, this decree protects against anti-competitive behavior and promotes safety, and I hope you will come to the conclusion this decree be preserved.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

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