

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 16, 2023

Chair Lina M. Khan  
Federal Trade Commission  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chair Khan,

We write today in strong support of the construction of a memorial on the site of the assassination of the United States' twentieth President, James A. Garfield. The tragic death of a sitting President is a pivotal moment in our nation's history that should be preserved and remembered. Indeed, President Garfield is the only of the four commanders-in-chief who were killed in office not to have a memorial at the site of their assassination.

President James Abram Garfield was born on November 19, 1831, in a log cabin in northeastern Ohio. He attended Williams College before returning to Ohio and becoming an attorney. In the American Civil War, he fought for the Union Army in the battles of Middle Creek, Shiloh, and Chickamauga, serving as a major general. In 1862, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent Ohio's 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Throughout his nine terms of service, Garfield distinguished himself as not only a skilled orator, but also a prolific mathematician. He was elected in 1880 as the twentieth President of the United States, taking office on March 4, 1881. However, on July 2, 1881 – less than three months after his inauguration – President Garfield was shot twice and mortally wounded in the Sixth Street Station of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad.

After President Garfield succumbed to his wounds later in 1881, a bronze star was set into the floor of the Sixth Street station to mark the site where the President was standing when he was shot. The star commemorated the tragic day and preserved it in our nation's memory until 1908, when the station was torn down and the bronze star went missing. Today, the site of President Garfield's assassination is in the middle of the intersection between Constitution Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street Northwest, in between the National Gallery of Art and the headquarters of the Federal Trade Commission.

Members of the James A. Garfield Civil War Roundtable have garnered the funding necessary to construct and install a new memorial to President Garfield's assassination on the sidewalk in front of the Federal Trade Commission. The site is mere feet from the exact location of the shooting and has a clear view of the building in which President Garfield served the majority of his adult life: the United States Capitol. The Roundtable has the blessing and full support of the Garfield family. Additionally, the organization has raised the funds necessary not only for the construction and installation of the memorial, but also for a permanent maintenance

endowment. The memorial would include signage and would be erected pursuant to the rules, regulations and policies of the District of Columbia Government.

According to the DC Government, federal agencies have a right to object to construction projects on the sidewalks adjacent to their facilities. We ask that the Federal Trade Commission not object to the placement of this memorial on the sidewalk next to the Commission's building. We believe this is a momentous, though tragic, part of our nation's shared heritage and that it is worthy of commemoration. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



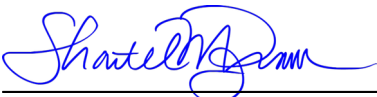
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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress