



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER PETER A. FELDMAN
ON GOVERNMENT-WIDE TIKTOK PROHIBITION
DECEMBER 23, 2022**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 omnibus appropriations bill contains an important provision to ban the social networking app TikTok from government devices. TikTok represents a known and credible threat to government systems and information technology security. That is why I offered amendments to the two consecutive CPSC Operating Plans to protect agency assets by banning this app on Commission devices. While the omnibus legislation includes a 60-day period to develop standards and guidelines to put this ban into effect, CPSC is ahead of the curve because our TikTok ban has been in place since September 2021.

CPSC is entrusted to protect the sensitive information we receive from consumers, companies, and other government entities. This includes personally identifiable consumer information (PII), health records, market-moving business confidential records (CBI) and law-enforcement-sensitive documents. The 2019 Clearinghouse Data Breach remains an [embarrassing reminder](#) of challenges the Commission faces in keeping confidential data safe. Authorizing the use of a social media service with ties to a foreign government was always too much risk for me to accept. That is why I pushed for this ban in the FY 2022 operating plan over the [objections of then Acting-Chairman Adler](#) who said my amendment to ban TikTok was “without any stated rationale.” He called it “micromanagement” and said it remained a mystery to him of why I was pushing for the policy.

More recently, there has been almost universal skepticism across the government as it relates to TikTok. Over the past several weeks and months, I have seen state after state enact similar bans. During the Commission’s consideration of our most recent Operating Plan (FY 2023), I am glad that a majority of my colleagues agreed with me to include my provision prohibiting TikTok on CPSC devices. Regrettably, though, my amendment was not adopted unanimously.

While I understand and believe in meeting consumers where they are, when it comes to TikTok, we should stay as far away as possible. As a result of this common-sense restriction, our stakeholders do not have to worry about TikTok compromising consumer PII, CBI, and other sensitive information at CPSC.