

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

Minority (202) 225-3641

March 11, 2021

Sundar Pichai
CEO
Google LLC
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043

Mr. Pichai:

Energy and Commerce Republicans recently unveiled our “Big Tech Accountability Platform” as a framework to bring much-needed reform to Big Tech. Our Platform is guided by four principles: 1) increasing meaningful **transparency**; 2) enhancing oversight and **accountability**; 3) pushing for **consistency** and objectivity; and 4) exploring **competition** issues so innovation is unleashed, not quashed. As we prepare for your appearance before the House Energy and Commerce Committee later this month, please provide written answers and any related documentation to the following questions no later than March 24, 2021:

Big Tech Responsibility:

1. As it relates to Google’s content policies regarding advertising and sponsored content, please answer the following:
 - a. What process does Google undertake to determine whether content violates its policies and is any outside person or third party involved in that process? If so, please identify such outside person or third party and how they are involved.
 - b. When content is flagged or reported by users, what process does Google undertake to determine whether such content violates its policies? Please explain.
 - c. Does Google have an appeal process to challenge content decisions or decisions to suspend or ban organizations from advertising? If yes, please describe such process.
 - d. Since January 2020, please list every organization Google has suspended or banned for violating its content policies.

2. As it relates to news articles on Google search, please answer the following:
 - a. What criteria does Google use to determine what news articles appear on its first search page results?
 - b. Since January 2020, please identify any news article Google has prevented from showing up in search entirely and explain why.
3. Does Google have a process to communicate, consult, and coordinate with law enforcement to address illicit content? If so, please explain.
4. Does Google have a process to preserve evidence of illegal activity on its platform to assist law enforcement? If so, please explain.
5. How does Google determine what search results show up on the first page? Please identify the specific criteria.
6. How often does Google make material changes to its algorithms? Please explain the process Google undertakes to make such changes and provide reasons for such changes.
7. What criteria does Google use to tailor or adjust its algorithms to determine the content users see?

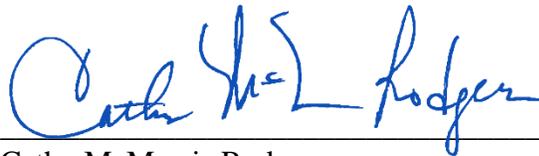
Big Tech Power:

8. Does Google coordinate with Twitter and Facebook on any content decisions? If so, please identify the categories of such content decisions.
9. Does Google coordinate with Twitter and Facebook on any decisions related to suspending or banning users, particularly when it comes to advertising decisions? If so, please explain.
10. Does Google coordinate with Twitter, Facebook, or any other tech company to determine which apps are available on the Google Play app store? If so, please explain.
11. Does Google coordinate with Twitter, Facebook, or any other tech company to determine which apps, games, or extensions are available on the Chrome Web Store? If so, please explain.
12. Did Google coordinate with Twitter, Facebook, or any other tech company to make content decisions related to Black Lives Matter riots? If so, please explain.
13. Did Google do anything to reduce access to the October 14, 2020, New York Post article titled "Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad"? If so, please explain.

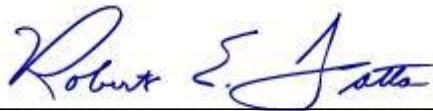
14. Does Google alter its algorithms to drive certain content or narratives based on the political leaning of such content? If so, please explain.

15. Please explain any efforts Google has undertaken to support local news and traditional media.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Republican Leader
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Bob Latta
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology



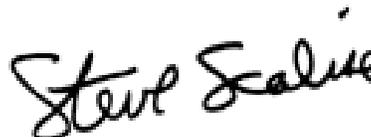
Gus M. Bilirakis
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Consumer Protections
and Commerce



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



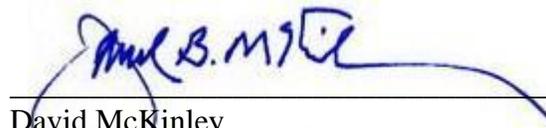
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



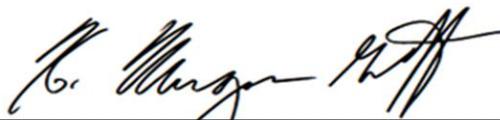
Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



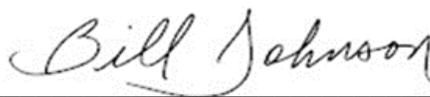
Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



David McKinley
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



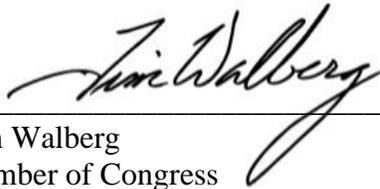
Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



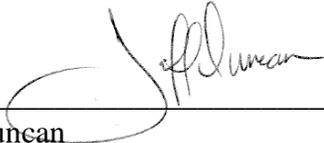
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



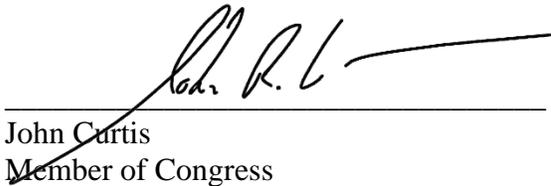
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Gary Palmer
Member of Congress



Neal Dunn
Member of Congress



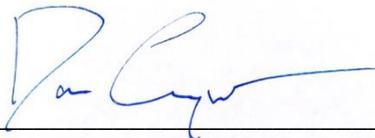
John Curtis
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



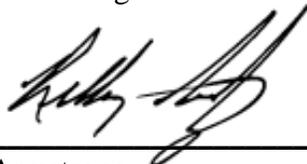
Greg Pence
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



John Joyce
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress