

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

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

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Minority (202) 225-3641

March 11, 2021

Jack Dorsey
CEO
Twitter, Inc.
1355 Market Street, Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94103

Mr. Dorsey:

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 Twitter’s content policies, please answer the following:
 - a. What process does Twitter undertake to determine whether content on its platform 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. What process does Twitter undertake to determine whether a user should be suspended or deplatformed 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.
 - c. When content is flagged or reported by users, what process does Twitter undertake to determine whether such content violates its policies? Please explain.

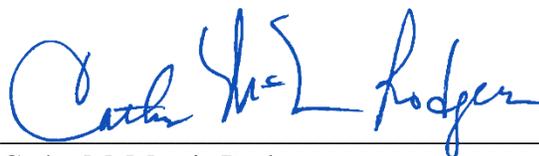
- d. Does Twitter have an appeal process to challenge content decisions or decisions to suspend or deplatform users? If yes, please describe such process.
2. Since January 2020, please list every Republican public official—federal, state, or local—Twitter has suspended or deplatformed.
3. Since January 2020, please list every Democrat public official—federal, state, or local—Twitter has suspended or deplatformed.
4. Since January 2020, as it relates to heads of government and world leaders, please identify each account Twitter has suspended or deplatformed and identify the specific policy for such decisions.
5. Without disclosing personally identifiable information, please disclose any content removed by Twitter related to Black Lives Matter riots and identify the number of accounts suspended or disabled for posting such content.
6. On June 1, 2020, now-Vice President Kamala Harris posted “If you’re able to, chip in now to the Minnesota Freedom Fund to help post bail for those protesting on the ground in Minnesota” and linked to an ActBlue Fund. Please explain how this post does not violate Twitter’s policies.
7. As it relates to news articles on Twitter, please answer the following:
 - a. Since January 2020, how many news articles has Twitter temporarily or permanently blocked? Please identify each article and explain the specific policy such articles violated.
 - b. What is the process Twitter undertakes to determine which articles should be temporarily or permanently blocked? Please identify the specific criteria for determining whether an article should be blocked.
8. Does Twitter have a process to communicate, consult, and coordinate with law enforcement to address illicit content? If so, please explain.
9. Does Twitter have a process to preserve evidence of illegal content on its platform to assist law enforcement? If so, please explain.

Big Tech Power:

10. Does Twitter coordinate with Google and Facebook on any content decisions? If so, please identify the categories of such content decisions.
11. Does Twitter coordinate with Google and Facebook on any decisions related to suspending or deplatforming users? If so, please explain.

12. As it relates to former-President Trump, please answer the following:
 - a. Did Twitter coordinate with Google, Facebook, or any other tech company to make content decisions about his posts? If so, please explain.
 - b. Did Twitter coordinate with Google, Facebook, or any other tech company to suspend or remove his account? If so, explain.
13. Did Twitter coordinate with Google, Facebook, or any other tech company to make content decisions related to Black Lives Matter riots? If so, please explain.
14. Did Twitter coordinate with Google, Facebook, or any other tech company to suppress 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.
15. Does Twitter alter its algorithms to drive certain content or narratives based on the political leaning of such content? If so, please explain.
16. What specific criteria does Twitter have that determines what content “trends” and the title for such trends? Are any employees involved in deciding what content “trends” or is that decision fully automated?
17. Please explain any efforts Twitter 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



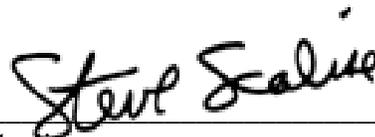
Gus M. Bilirakis
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Consumer Protections
and Commerce



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



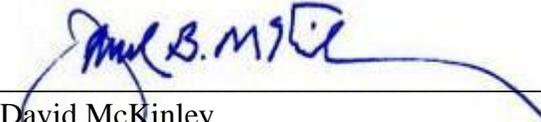
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



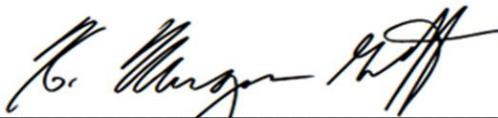
Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



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



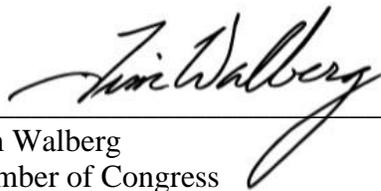
Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



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



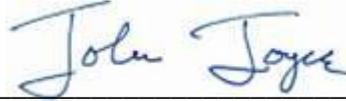
Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



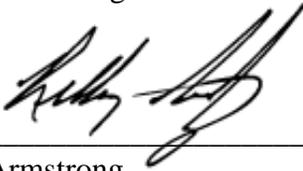
Greg Pence
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



John Joyce
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress