

November 15, 2018

The Hon. John Thune
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science,
& Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Roger Wicker
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications,
Technology, Innovation, and the Internet
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Jerry Moran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection,
Product Safety, Insurance, Data Security
United States Senate
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The Hon. Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
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The Hon. Mike Lee
Chairman
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition
Policy and Consumer Rights
316A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Jeff Flake
Chairman
Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology
and the Law
413 Russell Senate Office Building
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The Hon. Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science,
& Transportation
United States Senate
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The Hon. Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications,
Technology, Innovation, and the Internet
United States Senate
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The Hon. Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection,
Product Safety, Insurance, Data Security
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The Hon. Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
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The Hon. Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition
Policy and Consumer Rights
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The Hon. Chris Coons
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology
and the Law
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The Hon. Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Marsha Blackburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
United States House of Representatives
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The Hon. Bob Latta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and
Consumer Protection
United States House of Representatives
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
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The Hon. Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Judiciary Committee
United States House of Representatives
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The Hon. Tom Marino
Chairman
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,
Commercial and Antitrust Law
United States House of Representatives
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The Hon. Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
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The Hon. Michael Doyle
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
United States House of Representatives
239 Cannon House Office Building
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The Hon. Jan Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and
Consumer Protection
United States House of Representatives
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The Hon. Jerry Nadler
Ranking Member
Judiciary Committee
United States House of Representatives
2141 Rayburn House Office Building
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The Hon. David Cicilline
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform,
Commercial Antitrust Law
United States House of Representatives
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Schatz, Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Blumenthal, Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Feinstein, Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Klobuchar, Chairman Flake, Ranking Member Coons, Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Blackburn, Ranking Member Doyle, Chairman Latta, Ranking Member Schakowsky, Chairman Goodlatte, Ranking Member Nadler, Chairman Marino, and Ranking Member Cicilline:

Today's New York Times story, "[Delay, Deny, Deflect: How Facebook Leaders Leaned Out in Crisis](#)" is emblematic of a broader problem throughout our society. The misbehavior of companies this large and powerful has had and will continue to have dangerous consequences for our nation. When the decisions of corporate executives play such an outsized role in our nation's marketplace of ideas, when Americans' access to accurate information and our freedom of expression depends on these business leaders' moral compass, and when digital dominance translates into excessive economic and political power, it is clear that this industry can no longer skate by with so-called "self regulation."

Almost all other sectors of the economy have laws and sector-specific regulators in addition to antitrust review. It is time for the tech sector to receive this scrutiny as well. While antitrust enforcers should be encouraged to do their jobs, Congress must not wait, but act immediately to address this issue as well. We have discussed this further in a recent opinion article, "[Antitrust Alone Won't Save Us From the Curse of Bigness](#)." Now is the time to launch hearings and investigations with a goal of legislation that provides effective oversight for dominant tech companies.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gene Kimmelman
President & CEO
Public Knowledge

/s/ Charlotte Slaiman
Policy Counsel
Public Knowledge