

June 22, 2021

Via Electronic Transmission

United States House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6216

Dear Representative:

The Strategic Organizing Center is a democratic federation of labor unions that together represent more than 4 million hard-working men and women. We are writing to urge you to support H.R. 3843, the “Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act of 2021,” H.R. 3460, the “State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act of 2021,” H.R. 3849, the “Augmenting Compatibility and Competition by Enabling Service Switching Act of 2021” or the “ACCESS Act of 2021,” H.R. 3826, the “Platform Competition and Opportunity Act of 2021,” H.R. 3816, the “American Choice and Innovation Online Act,” and H.R. 3825, the “Ending Platform Monopolies Act.”

These bills follow a 16-month investigation of the tech industry conducted by the House Judiciary Committee's Antitrust Subcommittee. That investigation concluded, in a landmark report issued in September 2020, that Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google enjoy monopoly power and have abused their dominant position in myriad ways at the expense of fair competition. The bills, building on the findings of the report, aim to address a number of harms suffered by competitors – including small business, consumers and other stakeholders – and prevent these dominant firms from using their size to self-preference their own products and services, to neutralize competitors and to effectively control significant segments of the economy, especially the digital economy.

The growth of overly-concentrated corporate power is closely connected to vital issues for working men and women such as pay and working conditions. When corporations are permitted to unfairly leverage their power in adjacent and related markets, squeeze or eliminate their actual and potential competitors, and unfairly favor themselves in ways that distort competition, workers – along with small businesses, consumers, and families – find it harder and harder to simply operate fairly and honestly in the economy.

For example, the Subcommittee on Antitrust concluded in its report that Amazon, which is predicted to control 50 percent of the retail e-commerce market this year, conditions favorable search rankings on the purchase of unrelated Amazon services, discriminates against users of competing platforms, and uses data obtained as a platform provider to its competitive advantage as a retailer. Further, Amazon has amassed extraordinary power as an employer – it is now estimated that Amazon employs fully one-third of all warehousing workers in the US – and there are reports that in areas where the company has established warehouses, wages for warehouse workers have declined.

The growth of these types of market abuses harm everyone in the economy. And it is clear from the swift rise and unchecked conduct of these digital giants that current antitrust laws are simply

inadequate to address the power and abuses of the largest and most dominant tech platform companies.

These bills take important steps toward reining in the power of the large tech companies by putting an end to some of most egregious practices including eliminating these companies' ability to engage in self-preferencing, barring them from purchasing nascent competitor businesses and requiring that these companies create mechanisms for consumers to easily port information from one platform to others. These bills go a long way to curb these tech giants from continuing anticompetitive abuses that harm small businesses, consumers and workers, and protecting and restoring fairness in our economy. For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support these important reform bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Zucker".

Michael R. Zucker
Executive Director
The Strategic Organizing Center