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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: ROBERT RAKOWITZ

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in room 2237, Rayburn House Office Building, commencing at 10:02 a.m.

1 can imagine that's frustrating to me.

2 Q The Wall Street Journal recently broke reporting regarding Facebook and
3 CSAM.

4 Are you familiar with the term "CSAM"?

5 A I believe so. The term CSAM, yes.

6 Q And the Wall Street Journal had a reporting on that.

7 Are you aware that Facebook often points to GARM and its following of GARM as
8 an excuse for its practices?

9 A I'm aware of it, and I've expressed my own internal frustration with
10 colleagues about platforms using GARM as a shield.

11 Q Are there any steps that GARM plans on taking regarding platforms using it
12 as a shield?

13 A Unfortunately, this would have to be relitigating our bylaws, and that is a
14 lengthy step. It's something we may have to consider at a certain stage.

15 Q What steps is GARM taking regarding CSAM content on these platforms?

16 A Our expectation is this is the most vulnerable of vulnerable audiences, and it
17 deplores me to actually have to talk to you about this. Look, you know, it's not right
18 content. You know, innocent kids being victimized and victimized repeatedly, and then
19 having this stuff, you know, distributed on these platforms that are making money from
20 advertising, it's sick.

21 Q How does GARM differentiate something that shouldn't even be on a
22 platform for something that maybe a brand will choose that it doesn't want to monetize?

23 A It's a tough position for advertisers because we have to respect
24 independence and freedom of companies. Every company needs to make their own
25 policies. We're hoping that, like, platforms are working with governments and NGOs to

1 make those right calls. Advertisers need to have transparency and understand where
2 their ads show up. And those are, again, individual decisions. But, you know, we
3 cannot prevent advertisers and say, "Hey, listen, you know, there's CSAM here. Don't
4 advertise here."

5 Again, that's a breach of our competition law, so it's a tough position for the
6 industry and society to be in, to be honest. It's tragic.

7 [REDACTED] Can we go off the record?

8 [Discussion off the record.]

9 [REDACTED] We can go back on the record. I'm going to refer back to exhibit
10 No. 8, which revolved around emails between you and Stephan about points to land,
11 speaking of Facebook.

12 This email occurred in October of 2020, correct?

13 Mr. Rakowitz. That is correct.

14 [REDACTED] I'm going to introduce a new document into the record. This will
15 be exhibit 11.

16 [Rakowitz Exhibit No. 11
17 was marked for identification.]

18 BY [REDACTED]

19 Q So I'll give you a moment to look over Exhibit 11.

20 Have you reviewed it?

21 A Yeah.

22 Q Okay. I'd like to refer to the first email in this chain, which was an email of
23 July 21, 2021. Is that correct?

24 A That is correct.

25 Q And I would like to highlight the last paragraph on this page which says, On