

April 13, 2021

House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

We urge you to pass the House Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law Subcommittee's Final Report on Investigation of Competition in Digital Markets. The Subcommittee Report represents a north star for the movement to rein in monopoly power by strengthening antitrust enforcement. By passing the Report, you will be taking part in the first major step toward strengthening our antitrust laws to safeguard our economy, democracy, and society from unchecked corporate power.

The Subcommittee's Final Report is a byproduct of one of the most thorough bipartisan Congressional investigations in history. Over the course of sixteen months, the Subcommittee conducted a top-to-bottom review of competition in digital markets, with an eye toward the four largest technology companies in the United States – Apple, Google, Amazon, and Facebook. At the same time, the Subcommittee examined the adequacy of existing antitrust laws, competition policies, and enforcement levels.

In doing so, the subcommittee conducted seven public hearings, reviewed more than a million documents, collected testimony from dozens of experts on antitrust and competition policy from across the ideological spectrum. The Subcommittee collected nearly 1.3 million documents from third parties and the four companies in question and received testimony from the companies' four CEOs. From start to finish, the Subcommittee's investigation was conducted on a bipartisan basis.

The Report lays out recommendations for reining in the monopoly power of the four firms, starting with structural breakups to reduce conflicts of interest in each firm, implementing rules to prevent discrimination and self-preferencing, strengthening antitrust enforcement by the federal agencies and private litigants, toughening merger review law, and more. The recommendations outlined in the Report would help small businesses compete on a level playing field, while helping fortify our economy and democracy.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to reward corporate monopolies and the most powerful people in our society while forcing Black- and brown-owned businesses to close in historically large numbers. The Subcommittee Report provides a roadmap for Congress to re-balance our economy in order allow for a more equitable and just society. Passing the Report is the first step in mitigating the outsize influence that corporations have over our democratic process and allowing Congress to reassert the rule of law after decades of ineffective antitrust enforcement and unrestrained corporate power. We strongly urge its passage.

Sincerely,

American Economic Liberties Project
Action Center for Race and the Economy
ALIGN
American Family Voices
American Independent Business Alliance
Artist Rights Alliance
Backbone Campaign
Blue Future
Campaign for America's Future
Center for Digital Democracy
Decode Democracy
Demand Progress
Demos
Fight Corporate Monopolies
Fight for the Future
Indivisible Marin
Indivisible Ulster (NY19)
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Jobs With Justice
Main Street Alliance
National Employment Law Project
New York Communities for Change
Open Markets Institute
People's Parity Project
Public Citizen
Stand Up Nashville
Strong Economy For All Coalition
SumOfUs
Way to Win
X-Lab