



December 3, 2018

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Russell Senate Office Building, SR-404  
Washington, D.C.  
20510-4306

Dear Senator Cruz,

I am writing to thank you for highlighting key issues relating to big technology companies and their threat to the free flow of and access to information during Tuesday's Senate Commerce Subcommittee hearing examining the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) priorities.

My organization, [Free Our Internet](#), founded in 2017, works to educate citizens about how Silicon Valley technology companies abuse their market power to block, censor and manipulate information online, which more often than not has centered around conservative speech. My organization is also focused on big tech's abuses of consumer and user data, most notably with little to no transparency whatsoever, as well as anticompetitive behavior of near-monopolies that have demonstrated a willingness to limit consumer choice in order to protect their own business interests.

During Tuesday's hearing, several very important issues that need to be addressed were raised. As you pointed out, Google and Facebook have amassed a wealth and scale far larger than any internet service provider or communications company has; major tech companies engage in censorship and use their market dominance to silence voices across the internet but mostly within conservative political circles. Big tech is also beholden to no one, practice with very little transparency, and often refuse to cooperate with investigations or appear in front of Congress. This is very troubling.

As you indicated, we agree that you should work with your colleagues in Congress and the FTC to identify a legal framework to hold big tech accountable for their actions. As Commissioner Chopra pointed out tech investors have historically favored startups that have the potential to be bought out by companies like Facebook, Google, and Twitter, further solidifying their stranglehold on the market. This cycle is alarming, limits the choices for consumers, and the monopolistic nature of big tech today makes it less likely for a "neutral platform" for conservatives.

I am sure you have heard and have documented many cases of internet censorship but my organization keeps a [running record](#) dating back to 2007, documenting bans and censorship demonstrated by big tech should your office ever need it for reference in the future.

I hope you will continue to work with your colleagues and the FTC to investigate and examine the questionable business practices of big tech. As the Supreme Court has recently indicated, a re-think of antitrust in the digital era may be necessary.

As you work with your colleagues to examine a potential legal framework, we welcome an open discussion on the issue. Please feel free to reach out to Free Our Internet along the way.

Sincerely,

Christie-Lee McNally  
Executive Director  
Free Our Internet