



July 13, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Republican Leader McConnell:

The below undersigned independent business associations — a coalition of small business organizations and individual entrepreneurs — write to underscore the urgency for Congress to advance legislation aiming to address Big Tech’s monopoly power. Concentrated market power is the single biggest threat facing independent businesses, and the status quo in our digital markets is untenable.¹ The bipartisan bills represent an unprecedented opportunity to start leveling the playing field for our small, independent businesses, and the window to do so is closing. Now we urge Senate leadership to bring the bills, particularly the American Innovation and Choice Online Act (S 2.992), to the floor.

We have long urged Congress to act on these issues. As we stated in a previous letter, we supported the House Judiciary Committee’s extensive investigation into Big Tech’s monopoly power and enthusiastically advocated for the comprehensive package that passed out of the House Judiciary Committee last June. We supported the companion legislation in the Senate – American Innovation and Choice Online Act (self-preferencing bill) – that passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee this year and in recent months urged House and Senate leadership to bring the bills to the floor for a vote.

¹ See ILSR. 2022, “2022 Independent Business Survey: Top Challenges and Policy Priorities.” March 30. <https://ilsr.org/2022-survey-businesses/>.

While Big Tech lobbyists flood lawmakers' offices with falsehoods and claim to have the support of the small business community, the truth is our members see little future for American small business if the tech giants continue to corner our digital markets and use their power to favor their own products and block those of smaller rivals. Congress will be making the online marketplace more competitive by ensuring entrepreneurs and small start-ups can compete, and that small, independent companies selling online are free to choose the best and most affordable services without fear of retribution from the tech giants.

Small businesses are the backbone of America's economic dynamism and the vitality of our local communities. Now is the moment for Congress to advance legislation that will safeguard the right for independent businesses to compete and serve the needs of their communities. It is time for you to lead on this issue and bring the tech bills to a floor vote.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding
Alliance of Independent Media Stores
American Booksellers Association
American Independent Business Alliance
American Specialty Toy Retailing Association
Austin Independent Business Alliance
Dane Buy Local
Cambridge Local First
Independent Office Products and Furniture Dealers Association
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Local First Arizona
Local First, La Plata County
Lowcountry Local First
Louisville Independent Business Alliance
Main Street Alliance
National Bicycle Dealers Association
National Sporting Goods Association
North American Hardware and Paint Association
Shop Local Raleigh/Greater Raleigh Merchants Association
Spokane Independent Metro Business Alliance
Running Industry Association

cc:

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Chair, Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Cicilline
Chairman, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law
2233 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Buck
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515