



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Brendan Carr
Chairman

February 26, 2025

Mr. Sundar Pichai
Chief Executive Officer
Alphabet, Inc.

Mr. Andy Jassy
Chief Executive Officer
Amazon.com, Inc.

Mr. Tim Cook
Chief Executive Officer
Apple Inc.

Mr. Ryan Roslansky
Chief Executive Officer
LinkedIn Corp.

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
Chief Executive Officer
Meta Platforms, Inc.

Mr. Satya Nadella
Chief Executive Officer
Microsoft Corp.

Mr. Bill Ready
Chief Executive Officer
Pinterest, Inc.

Mr. Evan Spiegel
Chief Executive Officer
Snap Inc.

Ms. Maryana Iskander
Chief Executive Officer
Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.

Ms. Linda Yaccarino
Chief Executive Officer
X Corp.

Dear Ms. and Messrs. Pichai, Jassy, Cook, Roslansky, Zuckerberg, Nadella, Ready, Spiegel, Iskander, and Yaccarino,

Over the past few years, Americans lived through an unprecedented surge in censorship. In too many cases, tech companies silenced individuals for doing nothing more than expressing themselves online and in the digital town square. The Biden Administration only encouraged this conduct by pressuring tech companies to discriminate against Americans based on their political, social, or scientific viewpoints.

Thankfully, President Trump has already taken action to restore Americans' First Amendment rights, marshalling efforts to dismantle the censorship cartel.¹ Consistent with President Trump's longstanding commitment to free speech, some of you, like X, stood strong even as those waves of censorship crashed across the country. Others, like Meta, have now

¹ Exec. Order No. 14149, 90 Fed. Reg. 8243, RESTORING FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ENDING FEDERAL CENSORSHIP (Jan. 20, 2025).

joined in expressing a commitment to push back on efforts to silence Americans.² And still others, like Google, have progress they can make towards embracing the values of free expression. As detailed below, I am writing to each of you today to provide my support for efforts to stand up for free speech.

Following President Trump's lead, we are working across the government to ensure that all Americans can exercise their free speech rights online and access a true diversity of viewpoints. I am concerned, however, that foreign nations and regulators are moving in the opposite direction—and their efforts could hinder the progress we're making in this country. In particular, the EU's Digital Services Act, or DSA, is positioned to thwart efforts by U.S. tech companies to preserve and respect First Amendment principles on their platforms.³ This is especially true for products the DSA considers very large online platforms or very large online search engines, which each of you are.

Amidst this European overreach, President Trump has made clear that the United States will defend American companies from discriminatory laws and foreign regulatory regimes that wrongly burden our businesses.⁴ Indeed, just this month, Vice President Vance offered a warning about European efforts to censor speech on American Internet platforms.⁵ In those remarks, the Trump Administration made clear that the DSA threatens freedom of speech and diversity of opinion both within the United States and worldwide.⁶

The DSA undermines U.S. companies' ability to adhere to First Amendment principles by requiring them to censor, monitor, and report on users' speech. This includes what EU Member States consider unlawful speech, including speech that falls within vague and subjective categories such as "hate speech," which has already been applied to expressions of religious belief.⁷ Platforms must also censor blasphemy, insults, or even defiling the memory of a dead person.⁸ What's more, the DSA requires the hiring of government-approved "trusted flaggers" to

² Letter to Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, from Mark Zuckerberg, Chief Executive Officer, Meta Platforms, Inc. (Aug. 26, 2024); Ariel Zilber, *Zuckerberg announces end to Facebook's third-party fact-checking, admits model became a tool for censorship: 'Too many mistakes'*, N.Y. POST (Jan. 7, 2025).

³ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market for Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act).

⁴ Exec. Order, DEFENDING AMERICAN COMPANIES AND INNOVATORS FROM OVERSEAS EXTORTION AND UNFAIR FINES AND PENALTIES (Feb. 21, 2025).

⁵ Vice President J.D. Vance, Artificial Intelligence Action Summit (Feb. 11, 2025) Paris, France; Vice President J.D. Vance, Munich Security Conference (Feb. 14, 2025) Munich, Germany.

⁶ *Id.*; Siladitya Ray, *JD Vance Knocks EU's Regulation of US Tech Giants: 'America Cannot Accept That'*, FORBES (Feb. 11, 2025).

⁷ Digital Services Act, Art. 35(1)(c); Sean Nelson, *Trump Admin Serious About Combatting Global Censorship*, REALCLEARPOLITICS (Feb. 19, 2025).

⁸ Caleb Holzaepfel, *Can I Say That?: How an International Blasphemy Law Pits the Freedom of Religion Against the Freedom of Speech*, 28 Emory Int'l L. Rev. 597 (2014); § 185, 189 StGB (F.R.G.).

forward content to platforms that must be “treated with priority.”⁹ The Orwellian measures don’t end there—the EU’s Code of Conduct on Disinformation becomes law under the DSA on July 1, 2025, and will impose further requirements on American Internet platforms.¹⁰

The DSA marks a fork in the road for U.S. technology companies. On the one hand, the DSA requires you to censor content in violation of free speech principles. On the other, violating the DSA would risk European regulators imposing exorbitant fines of up to six percent of your annual revenue.

It is not clear how U.S. businesses will navigate the path forward. The DSA may force U.S. companies to skew their content moderation policies to EU standards—a race to the bottom and away from free speech. In at least one case, the platform Rumble decided that it cannot do business in a European country because it is incompatible with its commitment to free speech.¹¹

As companies seek to resolve this predicament, geofencing has been proposed as a potential solution—bifurcating your platforms into one consistent with EU law and a separate one for free speech. It is unclear whether this approach is technically or economically feasible. This proposed solution may also fail if European regulators require platforms to censor speech on a global scale.¹²

To help support your efforts to restore and preserve free speech on your platforms, I am requesting a briefing from each of your companies. I want to understand how you are planning on reconciling the DSA with America’s free speech tradition, specifically regarding the economic and technical feasibility of geofencing, as well as the role you believe EU government officials will play in encouraging you to silence speech and demand that you censor information globally.

Please respond to the transmittal email by **March 3, 2025**, to schedule this briefing.

Sincerely,



Brendan Carr
Chairman

⁹ Digital Services Act, Art. 35(1)(g) & recital 61.

¹⁰ *The Code of Conduct on Disinformation*, Policy and Legislation, EUROPEAN COMMISSION (Feb. 13, 2025).

¹¹ Brandon Gillespie, *Rumble reveals censorship demands from surprising list of countries as CEO to testify on free speech threats*, FOX NEWS (May 6, 2024).

¹² “[I]t follows from the foregoing considerations that the court of a Member State may, in theory, adjudicate on the removal worldwide of information disseminated via the internet.” *Eva Glawischnig-Piesczek v. Facebook Ireland Ltd.*, Case C-18/18, ECLI:EU:C:2019:821, para. 100.