



November 14, 2022

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Republican Leader McCarthy:

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. We urge you to make the American Innovation and Choice Online Act (S. 2992/H.R. 3816) a top priority in the lame duck.

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 rapidly closing. We urge you to make congressional action to regulate Big Tech a priority for parity for small businesses.

We have long advocated for Congress to take action to address Big Tech’s growing market power. 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 in June 2021.² We supported the companion legislation in the Senate – American Innovation and Choice Online Act (S. 2992, self-preferencing bill) – that passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee earlier this year and in recent months urged House and Senate leadership to bring the bills to the floor for a vote.³

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

² See *Small Business Rising*. 2022, “Statement in American Innovation and Choice Act.” January 20. <https://www.smallbusinessrising.net/updates/independent-business-coalition-applauds-new-federal-antitrust-bills> and “Statement on House Judiciary Committee Big Tech Bills.” June 18. <https://www.smallbusinessrising.net/updates/independent-business-coalition-applauds-new-federal-antitrust-bills>.

³ See *Small Business Rising*. 2022, “15+ Independent Business Groups Urge Congress to Pass Big Tech Bills.” April 11. <https://www.smallbusinessrising.net/updates/15-independent-business-groups-urge-congress-to-pass-big-tech-bills>.

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 the digital markets and use their power to favor their own products and block those of smaller rivals. Together with Congress, you 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 policymakers to advance legislation that will safeguard the right for independent businesses to compete and serve the needs of their communities.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding
American Booksellers Association
American Independent Business Alliance
American Specialty Toy Retailing Association
Austin Local Business Alliance
Cambridge Local First
Dane Buy Local
Greater Raleigh Merchants Association
Independent Office Products and Furniture Dealers Association
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Local First Arizona
Louisville Independent Business Alliance
Love Live Local, Inc
Lowcountry Local First
Main Street Alliance
National Bicycle Dealers Association
National Sporting Goods Association
North American Hardware and Paint Association
People First Economy
Running Industry Association
Shop Local Raleigh
Spokane Independent Metro Business Alliance
StayLocal, An Initiative of Urban Conservancy
World Pet Association
Yorktown Small Business Association

cc:

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

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

Small Business Rising | SmallBusinessRising.net

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