

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC 20515-6216
One Hundred Sixteenth Congress

February 10, 2020

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler,

Earlier today, it was reported that you made several statements about the behavior and asserted dangers posed by a few big tech companies. These statements come in the middle of the Judiciary Committee's bipartisan antitrust investigation into the tech industry, and shortly after Democrats insisted that these companies must produce a significant number of additional documents in order for us to conclude our investigation. Specifically, you said, "[the investigation goes] way beyond the fact" that certain companies allegedly misbehave; "that [these companies] cannot be allowed to exist in society;" and that leaders must "chang[e] the distribution of power" and "[break] up all the large companies."¹

As we have consistently emphasized during the Subcommittee's investigation, "big" doesn't necessarily mean "bad." America's leaders should not punish tech companies simply because those companies have succeeded—that will hurt consumers and stifle innovation. Our online ecosystem is thriving and breaking up large tech companies simply because of their size isn't the answer.

We also have warned from the start of the Subcommittee's work that this investigation must avoid pre-conceived conclusions. The conclusions you articulated this past weekend have only aggravated our concerns.

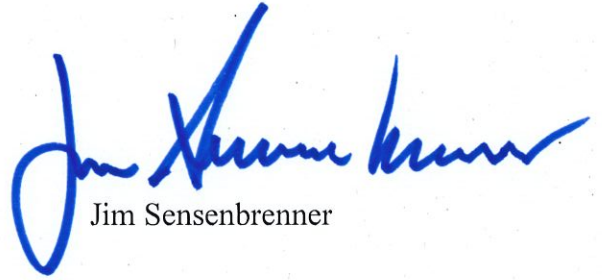
We want to be clear—we will not participate in an investigation with pre-conceived conclusions that America's large tech companies are inherently bad, cannot be allowed to exist in society, and must be broken up. We are gravely concerned that your comments have jeopardized the Subcommittee's and the Committee's ability to perform bipartisan work through the Subcommittee's investigation.

¹ Cristiano Lima, *Nadler Assails Big Tech: That Kind of Power Cannot Be Allowed to Exist*, POLITICO, Feb. 10, 2020; see also <https://twitter.com/matthewstoller/status/1226677638040870913>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Collins", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Doug Collins
Ranking Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Sensenbrenner", written over the name "Jim Sensenbrenner".

Jim Sensenbrenner

cc: Rep. David N. Cicilline