

July 13, 2020

Jerrold Nadler, Chair
Jim Jordan, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

David N. Cicilline, Chair
F. James Sensenbrenner, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Jordan, Chairman Cicilline, and Ranking Member Sensenbrenner:

The House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law recently made known that Jeff Bezos of Amazon, Tim Cook of Apple, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, and Sundar Pichai of Google will testify later this month, but said that additional details of the format will be forthcoming. We write to urge you to ensure that the world's most powerful tech CEOs testify in separate, individualized sessions before the Subcommittee later this month in furtherance of its historic investigation into digital markets.

Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google derive power from their enormity and complexity, which strike at the heart of this investigation. Reporting suggests that Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, who among the four CEOs is the only who has never provided Congressional testimony, is focused on securing a format that could shield him from answering the Subcommittee's questions. Apple CEO Tim Cook, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, and Google CEO Sundar Pichai have all previously testified individually and voluntarily in accordance with Congress' requests.

As four of the six most valuable companies in the world, Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google have broad and complicated corporate structures and business strategies. The difficulty of analyzing their businesses virtually and in a single day will be compounded by the likelihood that the CEOs, whose businesses are, of course, distinct, will work together, if allowed to testify side by side, to evade and deflect questions while obscuring critical answers the Subcommittee seeks.

No CEO should have the ability to artificially limit the Subcommittee's investigation through tactics like this, but we must anticipate that these CEOs will tacitly cooperate to exploit any such openings during the hearing. Should the corporations refuse to come before Congress virtually and individually, we support immediately compelling their testimony through subpoena, along

with any other information the Subcommittee deems relevant to its investigations that the corporations fail to voluntarily produce.

Sincerely,

Accountable Tech
Alliance to Counter Crime Online
American Economic Liberties Project
Athena
Backbone Campaign
Color of Change
Demand Progress Education Fund
Freedom From Facebook & Google
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Jobs with Justice
Make the Road New York
Media Justice
Open Markets Institute
Threshold

cc: Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives