June 14, 2018

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chairman
The Honorable Jerry Nadler, Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman
The Honorable Joe Barton, Vice Chairman
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen, Vice Chairman, and Ranking Members:

We, the undersigned, are creatives who make our living in the entertainment industries. Whether we work in film, television, publishing, music, or photography, we and our colleagues have all been affected by the rampant, illicit activity that occurs on the major internet platforms, including Google and Facebook.

There has been growing concern in Washington, in the press, and among Americans about the lack of responsibility exercised by the major internet platforms toward harmful and illegal activity taking place on their services.

For decades, online gatekeepers like Facebook and Google have turned a blind eye to the proliferation of widespread societal harms on their platforms. From sex trafficking to foreign influence over our elections, from privacy to piracy, it has become increasingly clear that more needs to be done to ensure platform responsibility.

In recent hearings in both the House and the Senate, Facebook’s CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, characterized Silicon Valley’s failure to take an appropriately broad view of its responsibility as a “big mistake.” But whether the lack of responsibility was a “mistake” or something else, the failure of Facebook, Google, and others to take responsibility is rooted in decades-old government policies, including legal immunities and safe harbors, that treat these companies differently than other industries and actually absolve internet platforms of responsibility.

This must change. As long as these companies are allowed to continue to operate in a policy framework that prioritizes their growth and wealth over accountability, American creativity will be harmed along with many other important societal interests.

Google needs to join Mr. Zuckerberg in stepping forward and embracing a broader view of its responsibility. But the real problem is not any one company. The problem is endemic in a system that applies a different set of rules to the internet because it’s “exceptional,” and utterly fails to impose...
ordinary norms of accountability on internet businesses that are built around monetizing the content of others.

We want to sincerely thank you and your colleagues for asking Facebook to testify – and Google should be next up to the microphone. We understand that Google has been invited to appear. This problem will continue to affect millions of Americans, both in their day-to-day lives and in their pocketbooks, until action is taken to correct it. It’s long past time to hold Google, Facebook, and other internet platforms responsible for their actions and inactions that hurt consumers, creativity, and the American economy.

Sincerely,

George Bamber  
Director: *Hit the Floor*  
Assistant Director: *S.W.A.T.*

Peter Baxter  
President and Co-Founder, Slamdance Film Festival

Susan Becker  
Costume Designer: *Father of the Bride, Flatliners, True Romance*

Harold Becker  
Director: *Malice, The Onion Field, Sea of Love*

Albert Berger  
Bona Fide Productions  
Producer: *Election, Little Miss Sunshine, Nebraska*

Claire Best  
Claire Best & Associates

Jason Blum  
Blumhouse

Bill Borden  
Executive Producer: *High School Musical, Kung Fu Hustle*  
Producer: *El Mariachi, End of Days, La Bamba*

Marty Bowen  
Temple Hill Entertainment  
Producer: *First Man; The Fault in Our Stars; Love, Simon; The Maze Runner Trilogy; Uncle Drew*

Chris Brancato  
Co-Creator: *Narcos*

Allison Burnett  
Writer, Director, Producer, Executive Producer: *Ask Me Anything*  
Writer: *Autumn in New York*
Eric Cady
Senior Counsel, Independent Film & Television Alliance

Jon Cassar
Executive Producer: 24, Forsaken
Director: 24, Forsaken, Fringe, Medici: The Magnificent, The Orville, Revolution

Cotty Chubb
Producer: The Dinner, Eve's Bayou, Pootie Tang

Dylan Clark
Dylan Clark Productions
Producer: Planet of the Apes Trilogy

Jane Clark
Film McQueen
Producer: Elena Undone
Director, Editor, Producer, Writer: Crazy Bitches, Meth Head

Susan Cleary
Vice President & General Counsel, Independent Film & Television Alliance

Bruce Cohen
Producer: American Beauty, Milk, Silver Linings Playbook

Charlie Corwin
Founder, Corwin Media
Executive Producer: Dual Survival, Half Nelson
Producer: The Squid and the Whale

Cindy Cowan
Executive Producer: Red Lights, Savior
Producer: Very Bad Things

Martha De Laurentiis
Producer: Hannibal, Red Dragon, U-571

Donald De Line
Producer: I Love You, Man; The Italian Job; Ready Player One

Joshua Donen
Producer: Gone Girl, The Quick and the Dead
Executive Producer: House of Cards, Mindhunter, Spartacus

Clay Epstein
President, Film Mode Entertainment
Blye Faust  
Producer: Spotlight

Adam Fields  
Producer: BrokeDown Palace, Donnie Darko, The Wedding Ringer

Wendy Finerman  
Producer: The Devil Wears Prada, Drumline, Forrest Gump, P.S. I Love You

Cesar Fishman  
Senior Vice President of Communications, CreativeFuture

Christopher Floyd  
Chief Operating Officer, Amblin Partners

Lucas Foster  
Producer: Jumper, Man on Fire, Mr. and Mrs. Smith

Kevin Goetz  
Founder and CEO, Screen Engine/ASI

Neil Goetz  
Executive Creative Director, The Engine Room  
Co-Director of Development and Acquisitions, BBMG Entertainment

Norman Golightly  
Executive Producer: Ghost Rider, The Sorcerer's Apprentice  
Producer: Lord of War

Mark Gordon  
Entertainment One  
Executive Producer: Quantico, Grey's Anatomy, Designated Survivor, Criminal Minds, Ray Donovan  
Producer: The Nutcracker and the Four Realms, Murder on the Orient Express

Michael Gracey  
Director: The Greatest Showman

Bonnie Greenberg  
Co-Producer/Music Supervisor: The Hunting Ground  
Executive Music Producer: RBG  
Music Supervisor: How The Grinch Stole Christmas, My Best Friend's Wedding

Jeffrey Greenstein  
Co-President, Millennium Media, Inc.
James V. Hart
Writer: *August Rush, Bram Stoker's Dracula, Contact, Hook*
Founder, HartChart

Lisa Henson
CEO, The Jim Henson Company

Patricia Herskovic
Producer: *Deadly Blessing, Mother's Boys, Toy Soldiers*
Author: *Escape to Life*

Marshall Herskovitz
The Bedford Fall Company
Producer / Writer: *The Last Samurai*
Producer: *Blood Diamond, Legends of the Fall*
Executive Producer: *Thirtysomething, My So-Called Life*

David Hoberman
Mandeville Films

Matthias Hoene
Director: *Cockneys vs Zombies, Enter the Warriors Gate*

Gale Anne Hurd
Valhalla Entertainment
Executive Producer: *Fear The Walking Dead, Lore, The Walking Dead*

Allison Jackson
Founder and CEO, The Allison Jackson Company

Dan Jinks
Producer: *American Beauty, Big Fish, Milk*

Brad Kembel
Executive Vice President, Distribution & Operations, Global Road Entertainment, LLC

Tim Kittleson
Director, UCLA Film & Television Archive (ret.)

Hawk Koch
Former President, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
Executive Producer: *Heaven Can Wait, Primal Fear, Source Code, Wayne's World*
Tony Krantz
Flame Ventures
Executive Producer: 24
Producer: *Mulholland Drive*

Adam Krentzman
Executive Producer: *The Domestics, Elephant Tales, Oh My God*

Mark Leibowitz
President, Leibowitz Pictures

Adam Leipzic
Producer: *Plastic Ocean*
Co-Producer: *Titus*

Peter Lenkov
Executive Producer: *Hawaii Five-0, MacGyver, Magnum P.I., Salvation*

Harry Lennix
Actor: *The Blacklist, Man of Steel, The Matrix Reloaded, Matrix Revolutions*

Avi Lerner
Chairman and CEO, Millennium Media, Inc.

Todd Lieberman
Mandeville Films
Producer: *Beauty and the Beast, The Fighter, The Proposal, Wonder*

Michael London
Groundswell Productions
Executive Producer: *Confirmation, Milk*
Producer: *Sideways*

Laurence Mark
Producer: *Jerry Maguire; I, Robot; Dreamgirls; Julie & Julia; The Greatest Showman*

Craig Mazin
Writer: *The Hangover Part II, Identity Thief*

Nat McCormick
Executive Vice President of Sales & Distribution, The Exchange

Gev Miron
Co-Founder and Creative Director, MVH CreativeWorks

MJ Peckos
President, Dada Films
Executive Producer: *Burning Secret, Paper House*
Pamela Pickering  
Berlin International Film Festival Delegate, Former Chairman of IFTA

Lou Pitt  
CEO, The Pitt Group and Alton Road Productions  
Producer: The Exception, Hollywood Homicide

David Poland  
President, Outside Voice

Gavin Polone  
Pariah  
Executive Producer: Curb Your Enthusiasm  
Producer: Zombieland

Dawn Prestwich  

Jean Prewitt  
CEO, Independent Film & Television Alliance

John Ptak  
Owner, Arsenal Films

Samantha Ramirez-Herrera  
Founder, Offtharecord Inc.

Linda Reisman  
Producer: Leave No Trace  
Executive Producer: The Danish Girl

JB Roberts  
Partner, Thruline Entertainment

Lise Romanoff  
Managing Director / CEO, Vision Films, Inc.

Karen Rosenfelt  
Executive Producer: Twilight

Eric Roth  
Executive Vice President of Business Affairs, New Regency Productions

Aaron Ryder  
Co-President of Production & Acquisitions, FilmNation Entertainment  
Producer: Arrival, Transcendence
Nina Sadowsky  
Author: *The Burial Society, Just Fall*  
Executive Producer: *The Wedding Planner*

Lloyd Segan  
Partner, Piller / Segan

Meyer Shwarzstein  
CEO, Brainstorm Media

Paul Alan Smith  
Founder, Equitable Stewardship for Artists

Ellen Steloff  
Executive Director and Founder, Rabbit Hole Screenings  
Executive Producer: *Dream A Little Dream, Far From Home, A Gnome Named Norm, The Underachievers*

Michael Sucsy  
Director: *Every Day, Grey Gardens, The Vow*

Andrew Tennenbaum  
Producer: *Water for Elephants*  

Bob Tourtellotte  
Film McQueen  
Executive Producer: *Crazy Bitches, Meth Head*

Jeff Vespa  
Vespa Pictures

Michéle Vice-Maslin  
Sweetersongs & Mob Force Productions  
Songwriter: *Blue Bloods, Downsizing, Guiding Light*

Ruth Vitale  
CEO, CreativeFuture  
Executive Producer: *American Crime, Don Juan DeMarco, Gummo*

Nick Wechsler  
Nick Wechsler Productions  
Producer: *Magic Mike, The Road*

Robert B. Weide  
Director / Executive Producer: *Curb Your Enthusiasm, Mr. Sloane*  
Producer / Writer: *Mother Night*  
Writer: *The Giver*
Chris Weitz  
Writer: Cinderella, Rogue One: A Star Wars Story  
Director: A Better Life, The Twilight Saga: New Moon

Ron West  
Partner, Thruline Entertainment

Brett Williams  
Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, CreativeFuture

Frank Wuliger  
Partner, The Gersh Agency

Janet Yang  
Executive Producer: The Joy Luck Club  
Producer: The People vs. Larry Flynt

Ron Yerxa  
Bona Fide Productions  
Producer: Election, Little Miss Sunshine, Nebraska

Jonathan Yunger  
Co-President, Millennium Media, Inc.