July 17, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune, Chairman
The Honorable Bill Nelson, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairmen 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,

Pamela Abdy
Makeready
Executive Producer: *Kill the Messenger*
Producer: *Garden State, Identity Thief*

Gina Amoroso
Co-Producer: *Revolutionary Road*

Dave Andron
Executive Producer: *Justified, Snowfall*

Eli Attie
Co-Executive Producer: *House, M.D.*
Producer: *The West Wing*

John Baldecchi
Digital Riot Media
Executive Producer: *Happy Death Day*
Producer: *Conan the Barbarian, Point Break*

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

Craig Baumgarten
Producer: *All I See is You, The Forgiven, Shattered Glass*
Co-Producer: *Hook*

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*
Larry Becsey
Partner, Intellectual Property Group

Steve Beeks
NEXT Entertainment

Betsy Beers
Executive Producer: For the People, Grey’s Anatomy, How to Get Away with Murder, Station 19

Alec Berg
Executive Producer: Barry, Silicon Valley

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

Claire Best
Claire Best & Associates

Tony Bill
Director: Flyboys
Executive Producer: Going in Style
Producer: The Sting

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

Mark Burg
Executive Producer: Anger Management, Two and a Half Men

Allison Burnett
Writer, Director, Producer, Executive Producer: Ask Me Anything
Writer: Autumn in New York

Eric Cady
Senior Counsel, Independent Film & Television Alliance
Alessandro Camon  
Executive Producer: *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*  
Writer: *The Messenger*

Benedict Carver  
Eclipse Pictures, Inc.  
Executive Producer: *Eye in the Sky, Map to the Stars, Winchester*

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*

Tena Clark  
CEO, DMI Music  
Author: *Southern Discomfort*

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

Christopher Cleveland  
Writer: *Glory Road; McFarland, USA*

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*

Julie Costanzo  
Co-Producer: *Miss Representation*  
Producer: *Adventure Divas, The Virgin Suicides*
Cindy Cowan
Executive Producer: Red Lights, Savior
Producer: Very Bad Things

Pierce Cravens
Metropolitan Entertainment
Theatre Producer: Oh, Hello
Producer: Concrete Kids, This Isn’t Funny

Kirk D’Amico
President, Myriad Pictures
Producer: The Last Word
Executive Producer: Kinsey, Margin Call, Van Wilder

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

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

Chip Diggins
Producer: Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase, A Walk in the Woods

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

Dennis Dugan
Director: Big Daddy, Grown Ups, I Now Pronounce you Chuck & Larry, You Don’t Mess with the Zohan

Cassian Elwes
Producer: Dallas Buyers Club, Mudbound
Executive Producer: Lee Daniels’ The Butler, Margin Call

Clay Epstein
President, Film Mode Entertainment

Blye Faust
Rocklin | 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

John Flock
Executive Producer: The Good Shepherd
Producer: Bullet, Fortress

Christopher Floyd
Chief Operating Officer, Amblin Partners

Gary Foster
Producer: Daredevil, Ghost Rider, Sleepless in Seattle

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

Anne Marie Fox
Still Photographer: Dallas Buyers Club, Lee Daniels’ The Butler, Sharp Objects, The Zookeeper’s Wife

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

Keith Gordon
Sidetracked Productions Inc.
Director: Better Call Saul, Fargo, Homeland, The Leftovers, Legion, A Midnight Clear, Mother Night, Waking the Dead

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, Saving Private Ryan, Speed

Michael Gracey
Director: The Greatest Showman

Don Granger
Skydance Media
Executive Producer: Geostorm
Producer: Jack Reacher, Jack Reacher: Never Go Back, Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation
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

Jon Jashni
Raintree Ventures
Executive Producer: Lost in Space
Producer: *Godzilla, Kong: Skull Island, Pacific Rim, Warcraft*

Dan Jinks
Producer: *American Beauty, Big Fish, Milk*
Ryan Kavanaugh
Producer: *Mirror Mirror*
Executive Producer: *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift, Little Fockers, Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*

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

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

Jason Kliot
Open City Films
Producer: *Coffee & Cigarettes, Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room, Redacted*
Executive Producer: *Bubble, Capernaum, Lovely & Amazing*

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*

John Krokidas
Director: *American Crime, Kill Your Darlings*

Michelle LeClair
Author, Speaker, CCO, LeClair Beauty
Author: *Perfectly Clear*

Mark Leibowitz
President, Leibowitz Pictures

Adam Leipzig
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

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

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

Ron Maxwell
Writer / Director: Copperhead, Gettysburg, Gods & Generals

Craig Mazin
Writer: The Hangover Part II, Identity Thief

Mary Mazzio
50 Eggs Films

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

Michael Menchel
Producer: One Chance, Only the Brave
Executive Producer: Ain’t Them Bodies Saints

Tory Metzger
Executive Producer: Arrival
Producer: The Forest

Gev Miron
Co-Founder and Creative Director, MVH CreativeWorks

Bobby Moses
Mavrick Artists Agency

Eric Newman
Screen Arcade
Executive Producer: Narcos
Producer: Bright, Children of Men
Rick Nicita
RPMedia
Producer, Former Co-Chairman of Creative Artists Agency

Jerry Offsay
Executive Vice President, Hamburger Hill
Executive Producer: *As Seen Through These Eyes, Eight Men Out, Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*

MJ Peckos
President, Dada Films
Executive Producer: *Burning Secret, Paper House*

Maggie Phillips
Music Supervisor: *The Handmaid’s Tale, Moonlight*

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
Executive Producer: *Let Me In, The Way Back*

Samantha Ramirez-Herrera
Founder, Offtharecord Inc.

Linda Reisman
Producer: *Leave No Trace*
Executive Producer: *The Danish Girl*
JB Roberts  
Partner, Thruline Entertainment

Doug Robinson  
Executive Producer: Breaking In, The Goldbergs, Rules of Engagement

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

Karen Rosenfelt  
Executive Producer: Twilight

Howard Rosenman  
Producer: Call Me By Your Name, The Family Man, Father of the Bride

Danny Rosett  
Executive Producer: Capote

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

Robin Sax, JD & MSW  
Law Offices of Robin Sax

Teddy Schwarzman  
Producer: The Imitation Game, Mudbound

Lloyd Segan  
Partner, Piller / Segan

Keri Selig  
President and Founder, Intuition Productions  

Jeff Sharp  
Producer: Boys Don’t Cry, The Yellow Birds You Can Count on Me
Stacey Sher
Producer: *Django Unchained, Erin Brockovich, The Hateful Eight, Into the Badlands, World Trade Center*

Jon Shestack
Producer: *Air Force One, Before I Fall, Dan in Real Life*

Meyer Shwarztein
CEO, Brainstorm Media

Sigurjon (Joni) Sighvatsson
Palomar Pictures
Producer: *Killer Elite, The Weight of Water*
Executive Producer: *Arlington Road, Wind River*

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*

Michael Sugar
Sugar23
Producer: *Spotlight*
Executive Producer: *The Knick, The OA*

Kurt Sutter
Executive Producer: *Sons of Anarchy, Mayans M.C., The Shield*
Executive Producer and Writer: *Southpaw*

Andrew Tennenbaum
Producer: *Water for Elephants*

John Toll, ASC

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

Jeff Vespa
Vespa Pictures
Hunter Via
Editor: *The Chi, Snowfall, The Walking Dead*

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

Joana Vicente
Executive Director, Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP)

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*

Graham Yost
Executive Producer: *Justified*
Writer: *Speed*
Jonathan Yunger
Co-President, Millennium Media, Inc.