

May 7, 2021

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust and Consumer Rights
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Cicilline
Chairman, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law
United States House of Representatives
2233 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Buck
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law
United States House of Representatives
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Klobuchar, Sen. Kennedy, Chairman Cicilline, and Ranking Member Buck:

On behalf of our media organizations, we request your support for H.R. 1735 / S.673, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA). This bipartisan bill is critically important to protecting the future of high-quality journalism, including news and opinion, across the country.

In their wisdom, the Founding Fathers enshrined protections for a press free from government regulation in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. But the Founders could not have envisioned a future in which nearly all news and information would be controlled by two private entities. Today, Google and Facebook use their dominance over the digital marketplace to set the rules for news publishers and determine how journalism is displayed, prioritized, and monetized.

The JCPA would benefit all publications—large and small, national and regional—that create original news content online. Its benefit to news publishers and broadcasters with an editorial voice is critical, as we are all potential victims of viewpoint discrimination by the big tech companies.

Existing laws make it difficult for news organizations to obtain fair compensation from tech platforms for the use of their content. The JCPA would address this problem by allowing publishers and broadcasters to work together for a temporary period in order to negotiate for the compensation we deserve.

Australians and Europeans have recognized the challenge the tech giants pose to a free press, too, and are moving towards new compensation models for publishers. These models seek to ensure that equitable terms are offered to all publishers and that tech platforms negotiate in good faith. The JCPA deregulates our industry to enable a new compensation model in the U.S. too.

It is more important than ever to protect quality journalism that is independent both from government and from powerful Silicon Valley companies. We urge you to support the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

Christopher Dolan
President and Executive Editor
The Washington Times

Wyatt Emmerich
President, Emmerich Newspapers
Clarksdale Press Register
Charleston Sun-Sentinel
Greenwood Commonwealth
Indianola Enterprise-Tocsin
Delta Democrat Times
Yazoo Herald
Northside Sun
Rankin Record
Magee Courier
Simpson County News
McComb Enterprise-Journal
Columbian Progress
The Hattiesburg Post
The Lamar Times
The Petal News
The Chronicle
Clarke County Tribune
Newton County Appeal
Scott County Times
The Star-Herald
Winston County Journal
Choctaw Plain Dealer
Webster Progress-Times

Winona Times
The Conservative
Madison Journal
Franklinton Era-Leader
Dumas Clarion

Charles Hill Morris, Jr.
Morris Multimedia
Bryan County News
Coastal Courier
Effingham Herald
Frontline
Statesboro Herald
Connect Savannah
Bulloch County Pennysaver
Effingham Living
Statesboro Magazine
Statesboro MOMents
The Journal Sentinel
Clayton County Times Register
Ellsworth County Independent Reporter
Great Bend Tribune
Marquette Tribune
Blythewood Country Chronicle
Camden Horse & Equestrian
Chronicle Independent
Fort Jackson Leader
Lee County Observer
The Shaw News
Winnsboro/Fairfield County Country Chronicle
Smithville Review
Southern Standard
The Boscobel Dial
Courier Press
Crawford County Independent and Kickapoo Scout
Fennimore Times
Grant County Herald Independent
The Monroe Times
Muscoda Progressive
The Platteville Journal
Reminder
Republican Journal
Round Up
The Richland Observer
The Trader
Tri County Press

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The Denver Gazette
The Colorado Springs Gazette

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David Santrella
President Broadcast Media
Salem Media Group

Jonathan Garthwaite
Vice President
Townhall Media

cc: Chairman Richard Durbin, Ranking Member Charles Grassley, Chairman Jerrold Nadler,
Ranking Member James Jordan