



April 16, 2018

Dear Chairmen Grassley and Thune, and Ranking Members Feinstein and Nelson:

On behalf of the 17,000 members of the Directors Guild of America (DGA), 160,000 of SAG-AFTRA, and 140,000 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), we thank you for advancing an important dialogue in our modern times. As you focus on the critical issue of privacy in the wake of the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica incident, we echo the concerns of the MPAA and others, and urge you to examine the situation in a broader context.

The internet is an incredibly important tool and provides substantial value to our members, the global economy and the general public. Yet there have been an increasing number of complex and troubling issues that have arisen lately related to the lack of accountability for online platforms. As new revelations mount, so too does our nation's cognitive dissonance between an internet that is an essential part of our daily lives, and one that signifies a breach of trust.

Originally meant to drive innovation, the early ground rules governing the internet were deliberately lax to encourage the experimentation deemed necessary for the growth of what was then a fledgling medium. However, with market valuations that now dwarf the GDPs of entire nations, today's Silicon Valley giants have the resources and capabilities to abide by the norms that apply to other corporations.

The ramifications have long been an unfortunate reality for our industry – film and television – which relies so heavily on strong copyright protections. The immunity of safe harbor for decades shielded internet companies from liability. Our members – armies of creators, performers, skilled craftspeople and workers who often dedicate weeks, months, even years of their lives to a single feature film or television series – have been among those hit hardest. We are also concerned about the massive privacy violations and threats that have been unleashed, particularly on performers and broadcasters, which are at record highs. Despite the fact that leading online players have matured into massive global companies, the rules still haven't changed.

We couldn't agree more that the time for a national conversation about accountability for online gatekeepers is now. We must delve into frank discussions about unintended consequences, and how they can be addressed. Our future depends on it. We thank you for your leadership and consideration, and welcome any questions you have.

Sincerely,

Russell Hollander
National Executive Director
Directors Guild of America

David P. White
National Executive Director
SAG-AFTRA

Matthew D. Loeb
International President
International Alliance of Theatrical
Stage Employees

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary



April 16, 2018

Dear Chairmen Goodlatte and Walden, and Ranking Members Nadler and Pallone:

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