

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 1, 2022

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
Chief Executive Officer
Meta Platforms, Inc.
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

Shortly before the 2020 presidential election, Facebook suppressed an explosive *New York Post* article detailing how Hunter Biden used the position and influence of his father, now-President Biden, for personal gain, with the apparent awareness of President Biden. We wrote to Facebook at the time with important questions about Facebook's knowing suppression of First Amendment-protected activity.¹ In March 2022, after other outlets finally acknowledged the veracity of the Biden family's influence-peddling scheme, we wrote again with additional questions about Facebook's actions to suppress critical election-related information.² Facebook has never provided complete responses to these letters and, in the months since, has avoided any real accountability for its actions in interfering with election-related public discourse.

Recently, you described how Facebook's censorship of the allegations about the Biden family before the 2020 election followed a message from the Federal Bureau of Investigation that Facebook "should be on high alert" for "Russian propaganda."³ You acknowledged that this official alert from the FBI is what led to Facebook reducing the circulation of the *Post*'s reporting on its platform, preventing Americans from fully understanding highly relevant allegations about President Biden's awareness of and involvement in his family's influence-peddling scheme.⁴ Accordingly, we write to request additional information about Facebook's actions to interfere in free and fair election-related public discourse.

¹ Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO, Facebook, Inc. (Oct. 14, 2020).

² Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, et al., to Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO, Facebook, Inc. (March 31, 2022).

³ See, e.g., Victor Morton, *Mark Zuckerberg: Facebook suppressed Hunter Biden laptop story per FBI general request*, WASH. TIMES (Aug. 25, 2022).

⁴ *Id.*

We have seen in recent months how some in government have sought to use Big Tech to censor divergent viewpoints and silence opposing political speech.⁵ Government-driven and Big Tech-implemented censorship suppresses freedom of speech and free thought online in ways that harm public discourse. Facebook’s suppression of the *Post* article—and allegations of Biden family corruption highly relevant to the 2020 presidential election—following guidance from the FBI is highly troubling.

For these reasons, we request—in addition to responses to all outstanding requests from our October 14, 2020, and March 31, 2022, letters—that you produce the following documents and information:

1. All documents and communications between October 1, 2020, and the present, between or among any employee or contractor of Facebook and any individual affiliated with the FBI referring or relating to the *New York Post*’s reporting about the Biden family.
2. All documents and communications between October 1, 2020, and the present, between or among any employee or contractor of Facebook and any individual affiliated with the Biden for President campaign or the Democratic National Committee referring or relating to the *New York Post*’s reporting about the Biden family.
3. All documents and communications between October 1, 2020, and the present, between or among any employee or contractor of Facebook and any individual affiliated with the FBI referring or relating to purported election misinformation in the 2020 presidential election.
4. All documents and communications between October 1, 2020, and the present, referring or relating to Facebook’s plans to implement, or its actions based on, the FBI’s message to be “on high alert” for election misinformation.

Please produce all documents and information requested above as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 15, 2022. Furthermore, this letter serves as a formal request to preserve all existing and future records and materials relating to the topics addressed in this letter. You should construe this preservation notice as an instruction to take all reasonable steps to prevent the destruction or alteration, whether intentionally or negligently, of all documents, communications, and other information, including electronic information and metadata, that are or may be responsive to this congressional inquiry. This instruction includes all electronic messages sent using your official and personal accounts or devices, including records created using text messages, phone-based message applications, or encryption software.

⁵ See, e.g., Letter from Representatives Jim Jordan, Mike Johnson, & Dan Bishop, to Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO, Facebook, Inc. (July 22, 2021); Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, & James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight and Reform, to Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO, Facebook, Inc. (June 9, 2021); Vivek Ramaswamy & Jed Rubinfeld, *Twitter Becomes a Tool of Government Censorship*, WALL ST. J. (Aug. 17, 2022).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



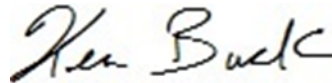
Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



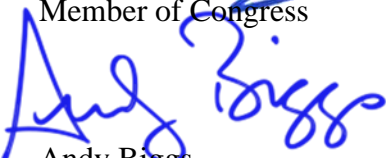
Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



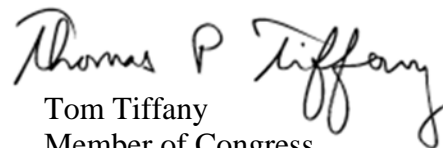
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



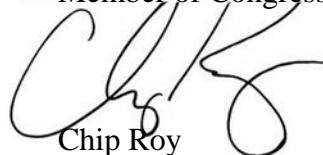
W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



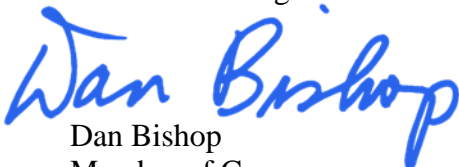
Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress



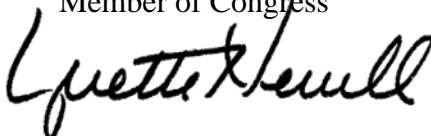
Glenn S. Grothman
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



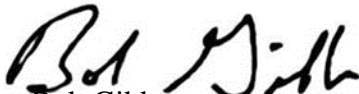
Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



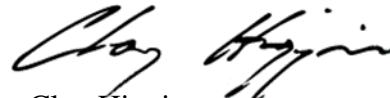
Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress

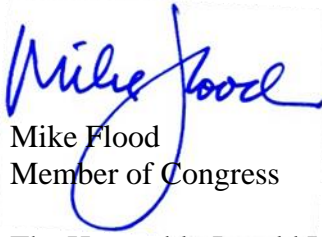


Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

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Mike Flood
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform