



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

November 28, 2022

Mr. Elon Musk,
Chief Twit
Twitter
1355 Market St #900
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Musk:

Congratulations on your purchase of Twitter. I, and many Americans, are thankful for your commitment to cultivating Twitter as, “...an inclusive arena for free speech.”^[1] I am hopeful that you will be successful in this endeavor.

A serious threat to the First Amendment rights of Americans originates not only from zealous government censors, but from social media companies who proactively, and many times incorrectly, label specific viewpoints as misinformation and disinformation. Recent reporting by *The Intercept* demonstrates that Twitter — under previous leadership — and other social media companies had deep ties and collaborations with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on the policing of speech on their respective platforms.^[2] This isn’t just a recent trend. Unelected bureaucrats worked to undermine legitimate news in partnership with social media companies to suppress a New York Post article regarding Hunter Biden prior to the 2020 election^[3]. This active collaboration with would-be arbiters of truth in the government continues to build on Twitter’s history of serious lapses in judgement related to the policing of speech, protection of user data, and even in international affairs given the company potentially allowed the infiltration of foreign operatives^[5] into the firm.

I know you are determined to take Twitter in a new direction. The American people are relieved at this fresh approach. But Congress must act to ensure Americans’ First Amendment rights are not infringed—from big tech or other companies. Central to this discussion is ensuring lawmakers understand the depth of collaboration large social media companies had with government agencies when labeling disinformation.

With this in mind, I respectfully ask that you report to Congress on any censorship requests from this Administration, whether from the White House, another cabinet department, or agency that is designed to be independent.

Sincerely,

August Pfluger
Member of Congress

^[1] <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/10/27/twitter-elon-musk/>

^[2] <https://theintercept.com/2022/10/31/social-media-disinformation-dhs/>

^[3] <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/03/31/hunter-biden-laptop-findings-renew-scrutiny-twitter-facebook-crackdowns/>

^[5] <https://www.vice.com/en/article/88q5wv/twitter-whistleblower-says-there-was-at-least-one-chinese-spy-working-at-the-company>