

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

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An Open Letter to America's Technology Companies

I call on technology companies to make a commitment to the American people—customers and users alike—to uphold the essential principle of free speech through a pledge of political neutrality in the use of their products and platforms.

Technology companies wield unprecedented power to bring untold benefit to society. But it is also true that some companies have used this power to restrict and shape the information consumed and shared by Americans. The revelations that Twitter implemented a corporate practice of censoring speech it did not agree with—going as far as silencing individuals on its platform to prevent them from sharing disfavored views—is a landmark development that requires a completely new and better standard for the industry.

It simply cannot be codified or condoned when the technological platforms enabling us to communicate as never before are weaponized to stop people from exercising their free speech rights as American citizens because they share views different than those in control of these platforms.

Last week, Apple CEO Tim Cook pledged to me that the company would “keep its thumb off the political scale” by remaining neutral and unbiased in the way Apple administers its core business practice and protects the free speech rights of Americans. He summed it up clearly when I asked him to address concerns of future bias: “We want to be Switzerland.”

We will hold him to that promise.

Now, it is time for America's technology companies to make the same commitment.

It is also time for our tech enterprises to again be a technology industry that innovates and invents to promote prosperity, increase efficiency, and connect the world.

Technology companies: **Commit to the American people that you value free speech, not favored speech. Take the pledge.**



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress