

June 15, 2022

To the Members of the United States Congress:

On behalf of the undersigned state and local chambers of commerce from 46 states, we strongly oppose recent legislation that would fundamentally rewrite America's antitrust laws to protect competitors rather than consumers. Bills like S. 2992, the "American Innovation and Choice Online Act," and S. 2710, the "Open App Markets Act," would lead to higher prices and fewer choices for consumers, discourage vigorous competition, and create different rules for American companies based on arbitrary criteria like market capitalization, while imposing no restraints on most foreign companies. Moreover, enactment of any of these bills would intensify calls for the federal government to pick winners and losers in the economy – an endless slippery slope.

For the past four decades, antitrust law has served as a successful example of bipartisanship, with members of both parties agreeing that the law should protect the welfare of consumers, rather than particular competitors. This consensus has created a stable legal framework across congresses and presidential administrations that has allowed America's innovative economy to thrive and American consumers to benefit from quality goods and services at low prices.

This stability is threatened. The antitrust bills currently under consideration would shift the focus of antitrust from promoting competition to protecting competitors from competition. They would punish some companies for competing vigorously while leaving other companies free to engage in the exact same conduct. As a result, these bills would give federal agencies the power to micromanage large sectors of the economy. In the future, the federal government would decide whether a company can innovate, lower prices, or offer free shipping and other services – or whether such vigorous competition is unfair.

These bills would harm consumers by raising prices, fueling inflation, reducing investment, and damaging innovation. For instance, S. 2992 would bar covered companies from using data to develop competing products that are often less expensive and would bar certain companies from providing consumers with information about lower-cost alternatives. It may well ban companies from providing certain services to consumers at no cost.

Instead of rewriting the antitrust laws to protect competitors, we encourage Congress to ensure that federal agencies have the resources they need to address potential anticompetitive conduct in the marketplace, subject to appropriate oversight. Through this approach, Congress could preserve competition in the economy while maintaining the long bipartisan consensus that has served America well.

Sincerely,

National

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Alabama

Enterprise Chamber of Commerce
Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce
Shoals Chamber

Alaska

Haines Chamber of Commerce

Arizona

Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Glendale Chamber of Commerce
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oro Valley Chamber
Greater Phoenix Chamber
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of
Commerce
Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce
Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce
Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce
Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber

Arkansas

Arkansas State Chamber/AIA
Little Rock Regional Chamber
Rogers Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

California

Bay Area Council
Brea Chamber of Commerce
California Chamber of Commerce
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce
Fremont Chamber of Commerce

Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce
Gateway Chambers Alliance

Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Business Federation
Modesto Chamber of Commerce
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce
North San Diego Business Chamber
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce
Orange County Business Council
Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce
Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
San Jose Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of
Commerce
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers of
Commerce
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce
Tracy Chamber of Commerce
Tulare Chamber of Commerce
USA Minority Chamber of Commerce
Valley Industry & Commerce Association
West Ventura County Business Alliance

Colorado

Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC
Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce
Vail Valley Partnership

Delaware

Delaware State Chamber of Commerce

Florida

Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce
The Osceola Chamber

Georgia

Ashburn Turner County Chamber of
Commerce
Barrow County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce

Hawaii

Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

Idaho

Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce
Idaho Chamber Alliance

Illinois

Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of
Commerce
GLMV Chamber of Commerce
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce
Lombard Chamber of Commerce
Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce
Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce

Indiana

Greater Lawrence Chamber
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
South Bend Regional Chamber
Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce

Iowa

Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce
Iowa Association of Business and Industry
Mason City Chamber of Commerce

Kansas

Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of
Commerce

Kentucky

Commerce Lexington Inc.
Greater Louisville Inc. - The Metro
Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana

Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of
Commerce

Maine

Maine State Chamber of Commerce

Maryland

Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Olney Chamber of Commerce

Michigan

Greater Niles Chamber
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Minnesota

Austin Area Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
St Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce

Missouri

Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mississippi

Mississippi Economic Council

Montana

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Montana Chamber of Commerce

North Carolina

North Carolina Chamber

North Dakota

Chamber Grand Forks / East Grand Forks
Greater North Dakota Chamber

Nebraska

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Nevada

Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Vegas Chamber

New Hampshire

Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce

New Jersey

African American Chamber of Commerce of
New Jersey
Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico

Gallup McKinley County Chamber of
Commerce
New Mexico Chamber of Commerce

White Pine Chamber of Commerce

New York

Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Business Council of New York State, Inc.
Capital Region Chamber
Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce
Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce
North Country Chamber of Commerce

Ohio

Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Marian Area Chamber of Commerce
Ohio Chamber of Commerce
Reynoldsburg Chamber of Commerce
Solon Chamber of Commerce/Western Reserve
Safety Council
Sunbury Big Walnut Area Chamber of
Commerce
Union County Chamber of Commerce

Oklahoma

Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce
State Chamber of Oklahoma

Oregon

Heppner Chamber of Commerce
Portland Business Alliance

Pennsylvania

Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce
Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and
Industry
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce
Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of
Commerce

Rhode Island

Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

South Dakota

Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee

Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce
Gallatin Area Chamber of Commerce
Seguin and Guadalupe County Area Chamber
of Commerce

Texas

Abilene Chamber of Commerce
Central Fort Bend Chamber
Greater Magnolia Parkway Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce
Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce
Ingleside Chamber of Commerce
Longview Chamber of Commerce
Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce
North Texas Commission
Rowlett Area Chamber & Visitors Center
Sherman Chamber of Commerce
South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce
Texarkana Chamber of Commerce

Utah

Salt Lake Chamber
South Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce
South Valley Chamber

Virginia

Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of
Commerce
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Washington

Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce

Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Washington Retail Association

West Virginia

Weirton Area Chamber of Commerce
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Wisconsin

Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wyoming

Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce
Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce