



April 10, 2018

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

Although many are understandably focusing on the privacy implications of the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica incident, I encourage you to also consider this event in a broader context: how online platforms are increasingly at the center of scandals that raise serious social, economic, consumer protection, and safety issues, and how those scandals are beginning to overshadow these online platforms' benefits and erode public trust.

The internet has unquestionably revolutionized communication, commerce, and creativity. Yet there is a growing chorus of concern around a wave of problems resulting from a lack of online accountability.

In every other sector of our economy, the public rightfully expects companies to behave responsibly and to undertake reasonable efforts to prevent foreseeable harms associated with their products and services. When businesses fail to meet those obligations, they are ordinarily held accountable. For two decades, the internet has lived under a different set of rules and expectations, stemming largely from immunities and safe harbors put in place when the internet was in its infancy and looked nothing like it does today.

The internet is no longer nascent—and people around the world are growing increasingly uncomfortable with what it is becoming. As highlighted by the recent congressional debate around human trafficking, it is worth examining how we got to the point where some believe the rules simply don't apply and that platform immunity, whatever the cost, is the price the public must pay for a vibrant internet.

There was a vision for the internet, and this is not it. The moment has come for a national dialogue about restoring accountability on the internet. Whether through regulation, recalibration of safe harbors, or the exercise of greater responsibility by online platforms, something must change. I thank you for your leadership and look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the months ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles H. Rivkin", is written over the typed name and title.

Charles H. Rivkin
Chairman & CEO
Motion Picture Association of America

cc: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee