

Janet Sichau |

Federal Trade Commission
Office of the Secretary
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Suite CC-5610 (Annex C)
Washington, DC 20580



August 6, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21st Century Hearing, Project Number P181201

The practice of some big companies collecting and selling my personal information is an invasion of my privacy. Why should everything I do be displayed in someone else data bank? The terms and conditions of sites such as Google, Amazon and Facebook are all legalese. It gets to the point of being beyond comprehension. It would take us years to read it. They should highlight the point they are collecting and selling our data instead of hiding it in the fine print. Clearer wording would help me avoid the misuse of my information. If it gets to the point where private information can be used by any person, at any time, for any reason, we will have to stop using the internet.

If I make a comment to someone on Facebook about a certain product, the next thing I know I will be seeing all kind of ads about that product. I do not want to be annoyed by ads while I am communicating with friends on social media. I do not want to be annoyed by ads while I am participating in a game. I can search for what I want by myself, I don't need anyone else bombarding me with information on something they deem is my interest. Facebook is saying they are giving me a free service in exchange for my personal data. They should be morally more responsible. I do not need Facebook, it is just a convenience.

We need to stop online surveillance, it is an infringement of my constitutional rights. Someone could take my private information from a company and it could be a danger to my family, my property, everything in my life. They could use my personal information to do me harm. I have been a victim of both identify theft and online scams. It terrified me. Luckily, it was caught quickly and stopped. I do not even know who put my information at risk.

Competition is a good thing. You cannot have a company blocking out their competition. Competition gives consumers a choice. I would like to know which companies are known to be abusing consumers and which ones aren't because then I have control over who has my private information.

Political viewpoints are being silenced online. Our political views are ours to have, they shouldn't be blackballed because some company doesn't like what is being said. If I am in one party, the other party still has a right to say what they want to say. That doesn't mean they are going to affect how I think, but they have a right to heard.

Sincerely,

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Janet Sichau