

August 7, 2018



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

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

I am a retired police officer, and I remember how the the United States government stepped in and got rid of monopolies in the 1970s. Now, we seem to be allowing companies that provide digital services to create monopolies that have become very intrusive into our lives. They are able to take our data and profit off of it without our true consent, and I believe that should be stopped.

My personal information belongs to me. I should have a say in what data of mine is collected and how it is used. I should have the right to give it to these media companies if I want, or *not* give it to them if I don't want to. It's my property that they're selling, and it's unfair that they are profiting from it.

Some online companies really invade our privacy. I'm uncomfortable with location tracking, for example. I also believe that the way some media companies censor certain political viewpoints online erodes our democracy. In fact, if people are allowed to be censored, *it won't be a democracy*. You can't have a democracy if everybody doesn't have a voice.

Competition is the basis for capitalism. It brings prices down and creates a better product. We need to prevent these online companies from having monopolies. Then, they'd treat their customers better because they would know their customers could go somewhere else. I would like to see tighter restrictions on companies that provide digital services, and I don't want them to be able to collect our data without our permission.

Sincerely,

Emelino Rico

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