



**RADIO TELEVISION DIGITAL NEWS ASSOCIATION  
RADIO TELEVISION DIGITAL NEWS FOUNDATION**

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
Chairwoman  
Senate Subcommittee on Competition Policy,  
Antitrust and Consumer Rights  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee  
Ranking Member  
Senate Subcommittee on Competition Policy,  
Antitrust and Consumer Rights  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**DELIVERED BY ELECTRONIC MAIL VIA MESSRS. LANOUE AND MEADOR**

January 31, 2022

Dear Chairwoman Klobuchar and Ranking Member Lee:

I write today on behalf of the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA), the world's largest professional association devoted exclusively to broadcast and digital journalism, to voice its **strong support for the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA)**.

As I know you are aware, Americans' online access to trustworthy news coverage of matters of public concern is currently facing a near-existential crisis, precisely because Big Tech corporations are reaping billions of dollars of advertising revenue directly from the work of local journalists and the companies that employ them. Journalists and the companies for which they work have no ability to stop these corporations from unfairly profiting off of their work, which is threatening their ability to employ people who report stories that are critical to a vibrant and healthy constitutional republic.

These Big Tech giants not only profit off of the work of journalists, but they also have total control over how responsible journalism is prioritized, displayed and monetized. They pocket the vast majority of revenue generated when news consumers access journalism through their platforms. The JCPA would finally give journalists and their employers the ability to negotiate fair compensation from Big Tech for its use of their work.

Moreover, the JCPA is a bipartisan bill that would greatly aid news publishers' ability to counter disinformation and misinformation in a content-neutral manner, ensuring that news outlets perceived as progressive, moderate or conservative all have the opportunity to take advantage of a narrow and limited antitrust safe harbor collectively to negotiate with Big Tech if they so choose.

The ultimate beneficiary of the JCPA would not be news publishers, although they would be able to hire more journalists to cover important issues in their communities; rather, it would be members of the public, too many of whom are currently denied the ability to benefit from news coverage because of Big Tech's stranglehold on the economic pipeline that fuels the gathering and dissemination of vital information.

Please let me know how RTDNA can best help in further advocating for this legislation. And I respectfully request that this letter be entered into the record at your upcoming hearing on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Shelley".

CC: Marc Lanoue, Subcommittee Chief Antitrust and Competition Counsel  
Mark Meador, Subcommittee Deputy Chief Counsel, Antitrust and Competition Policy