

October 20, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20240


Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I first want to thank you and the Committee's work to ensure a free and fair election process. The 2020 election will have far reaching consequences and ensuring that that there is no illegal interference has been, and should continue to be, a top priority of the Committee. That is why it is troubling to see online social media companies, such as Twitter and Facebook, limiting access to certain news, journalism and voices just days before the election. I strongly encourage the Committee to exercise its constitutional right and duty to oversee these actions to ensure that all existing rules, regulations and standards are being followed.

Recent events have brought forward a troubling pattern where social media companies have failed to follow industry standards, failed to follow their own rules, or have changed their rules to justify previous actions. This pattern has overwhelmingly led to the removal of content or users favoring one candidate over another. Specifically, I have heard from many Montanans demanding more transparency and further scrutiny into the suspension of official campaign accounts for President Trump or limiting the distribution of recent articles pertaining to allegations against former Vice President Joe Biden. This raises serious questions of illegal coordination or election interference. With so much information pertinent to the upcoming election flowing through these companies, it is of paramount importance that online companies are held to the same laws and accountability as the rest of the nation.

Our country was founded on a principle that the law is applied to all people blindly and equally. This applies to major social media companies as much as it does to a local advocacy group or organization. Therefore, any actions that appear to interfere with the 2020 election should be investigated and if illegal activity is discovered, those responsible should be held accountable. I encourage you to continue your bipartisan efforts on election interference and further investigate recent allegations of interference and coordination by major social media companies to ensure that the upcoming election is free and fair.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator