## Extended Remarks of Paul Chesser Director, Corporate Integrity Project for National Legal and Policy Center Amazon, Inc. 2022 Shareholder Meeting – May 25, 2022

I am Paul Chesser, director of the Corporate Integrity Project for National Legal and Policy Center.

Amazon's transparency about its charitable donations is vague at best and opaque at worst.

We know almost *nothing* about the amounts it has donated to causes that are destructive to our nation, although we know that Amazon is engaged in a lot of anti-American, anti-free speech activity.

But we do know at least one scandalous group that Amazon has donated to.

In June 2020, during the height of the nationwide urban riots following the death of George Floyd, Amazon Chairman Jeff Bezos responded to a customer who stated that "All Lives Matter" by saying, unbelievably, that he disagreed with him.

Representing the company, Bezos said, in part, "Black lives matter speaks to racism and the disproportionate risk that black people face in our law enforcement and justice system," and that "my stance won't change."

Well, two years later and Amazon's stance *has* changed, removing BLM from the Amazon Smile program.

Who knows how many millions of dollars the company wasted on the BLM organization, but now leadership at least partially sees this Marxist group – and indeed this phony Marxist, "defund-the-police" movement – for what it is.

My organization exposed the fraud that is BLM, showing that its leaders collected tens of millions of dollars from "white-guilt" donations by corporations like Amazon, which the BLM grifters then spent on several multi-million-dollar mansions.

Unfortunately this movement, which easily fooled the rich white corporate elites, has also driven an out-of-control crime wave in our major cities – including disastrously, Amazon's home of Seattle.

And companies like Amazon funded it.

Asked by Fox News about the skyrocketing crime wave in the wake of BLM's destructive "defund the police" advocacy, Amazon was mute.

While many of us in middle America saw right through it, Princeton-educated Jeff Bezos fell for the con hook, line and sinker.

"The inequitable and brutal treatment of Black and African Americans is unacceptable," Amazon states on its website, as though no Americans of any other race have been mistreated in its history.

Amazon isn't above censoring materials on its website, either, preventing popular conservative writer Matt Walsh from advertising his children's book "Johnny the Walrus" on its site, because company employees found it to be "traumatic" and "problematic."

Also, as wealth advisor Bob Rubin noted recently:

In 2021, Amazon removed its book listing of *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Movement*, by conservative scholar Ryan Anderson. The book had been listed for sale for three years prior and had been widely recognized as being well-researched.

Amazon Web Services also shut down conservative-leaning social media website Parler after the events of Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, after the phony allegation that the platform failed to prevent an alleged conspiracy to incite an "insurrection."

And the company's censorship practices extended to serve the purposes of the Chinese Communist Party as well, marketing the writings of dictator Xi Jinping while removing any negative comments about them. According to Reuters:

The American e-commerce giant must stop allowing any customer ratings and reviews in China.

A negative review of Xi's book prompted the demand, one of the people said. "I think the issue was anything under five stars," the highest rating in Amazon's five-point system, said the other person.

Ratings and reviews are a crucial part of Amazon's e-commerce business, a major way of engaging shoppers. But Amazon complied, the two people said. Currently, on its Chinese site Amazon.cn, the government-published book has no customer reviews or any ratings. And the comments section is disabled.

Amazon's compliance with the Chinese government edict, which has not been reported before, is part of a deeper, decade-long effort by the company to win favor in Beijing to protect and grow its business in one of the world's largest marketplaces.

Amazon is happy to promote the cause of both communists AND terrorists. A search this week on the site found that the company still sells the book, "How to Blow Up a Pipeline" by Andreas Malm. Good corporate citizenship?

Amazon isn't above lying to its customers and shareholders either, claiming it will power 100 percent of its operations with renewable energy by the year 2030. Somehow they plan to defy the

physics and density of fossil fuels with intermittent wind and solar, apparently. Let's check back in eight years and see how well AWS is running just on those solar panels and wind turbines.

And while we're not sure how much Amazon has donated to the cause of the illegal immigration wave sweeping over the United States, it's been reported that the e-tailer spent \$20.3 million last year to lobby lawmakers, partly on bills to increase access to cheap foreign labor. As Breitbart reports:

Specifically, lobbying reports show, both Amazon and Facebook lobbied members of Congress to pass a huge green card giveaway scheme that would reward tech corporations for years of outsourcing American jobs to imported foreign visa workers while also allowing Indian and Chinese nationals to monopolize the employment-based green card system for at least a decade.

Amazon and Facebook also lobbied Congress to increase the process known as "chain migration" whereby newly naturalized citizens can bring an unlimited number of foreign relatives to the United States. Already, 7-in-10 legal immigrants arrive via chain migration among the roughly 1.2 million legal immigrants that are rewarded green cards every year.

Most significantly, Washington, D.C. lobbyists for Amazon and Facebook were vital in the push for President Joe <u>Biden's failed</u> "Build Back Better Act" which would have provided amnesty to most of the nation's 11 to 22 million illegal aliens as well as limitless immigration for corporations.

Pro-Defund the Police, pro-China, pro-terrorism, pro-censorship, and anti-science. Amazon, be transparent. Disclose your charitable donations.