

Report on Government Take-Down Requests

RESOLVED:

Shareholders request that Amazon.com, Inc. (“Company”) provide a report, published on the company’s website and updated semi-annually – and omitting proprietary information and at reasonable cost – that specifies the Company’s policy in responding to requests to remove or take down content from its platforms by the Executive Office of the President, Members of Congress, or any other agency, entity or subcontractor on behalf of the United States Government.

This report shall also include an itemized listing of such “takedown” requests, including the name and title of the official making the request; the nature and scope of the request; the date of the request; the Company’s action or inaction to the request; and a reason or rationale for the Company’s response, or lack thereof.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

In *Bantam Books, Inc. vs. Sullivan (1963)*, and in other cases, the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that private entities may not engage in suppression of speech at the behest of government, as it has the same effect as direct government censorship.

On July 15, 2021, White House press secretary Jen Psaki was asked, “Can you talk a little bit more about this request for tech companies to be more aggressive in policing misinformation? Has the administration been in touch with any of these companies and are there any actions that the federal government can take to ensure their cooperation, because we’ve seen, from the start, there’s not a lot of action on some of these platforms.”

Psaki replied, “Sure. Well, first, we are in regular touch with these social media platforms, and those engagements typically happen through members of our senior staff....”

The Company regularly discriminates, censoring products based on viewpoint. It famously removed social media platform Parler, without notice, from its cloud hosting service in January 2021.

The Company also banned the sale of books by a Russian philosopher, almost certainly at the behest of the U.S. Treasury Department.¹ Meanwhile, several versions of “Mein Kampf” by Adolf Hitler are available for sale on the site.

The Company has also been pressured by at least one U.S. Senator² to censor materials that “peddl[e] misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.”

¹ “The Biden administration is demanding Amazon censor books they disagree with,” FoxNews.com, Oct. 19, 2022. See <https://fxn.ws/3UrMplb>.

² Sen. Elizabeth Warren letter to Amazon CEO Andy Jassy. See <https://bit.ly/3UEFKny>.

Even widely accepted views on issues can be removed from the Company's sales platform. One example is the removal³ of a book on transgenderism, written by a former Heritage Foundation scholar.

Shareholders need to know whether the Company cooperates with government officials engaged in unconstitutional censorship, opening the Company to liability claims by victims. Shareholders also need to know whether the Company fails to disclose these potential liabilities as material risks in its public filings.

³ Flood, Brian. "Amazon accused of 'absurd and unacceptable' censorship after book questioning transgender movement vanishes," FoxNews.com, Feb. 22, 2021. See <https://fxn.ws/3A6USSu>.