

July 21, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing,
and Trade
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing,
and Trade
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Bilirakis, and Ranking Member Schakowsky:

We, the undersigned small- and medium-sized businesses, write in strong support of H.R. 3209, the bipartisan App Store Freedom Act, led by Representatives Kat Cammack (R-FL) and Lori Trahan (D-MA). We applaud consideration of the bill at the hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals to Strengthen Consumer Protection in a Changing Marketplace,” and respectfully urge the Committee to advance it to the House Floor.

Smartphones are essential gateways to communication, commerce, and information for millions of Americans. Apple and Google’s immense gatekeeping power, however, has resulted in higher prices, reduced quality, less innovation, and fewer choices for consumers and developers. Both companies have repeatedly exploited their dominance to extract monopoly rents from the digital economy and unfairly advantage their own products and services. They dictate critical terms of competition, including restricting what developers may tell their own customers and controlling how products are distributed through competing channels.

This anticompetitive conduct has real consequences. It insulates Apple and Google from healthy competition by entrenching their roles as gatekeepers, which limits the ways developers can reach their own customers and increases the cost of distributing products. It also significantly reduces the incentive for developers and other businesses to innovate by offering better app marketplaces, payment services, security tools, and consumer experiences. Americans ultimately bear those costs through higher prices and fewer choices.

The App Store Freedom Act provides a tailored and proven solution to address these concerns. It would spur competition by requiring Apple and Google to allow users to install third-party apps and app stores, select them as defaults, and remove or hide preinstalled apps. It would also require dominant platforms to provide developers with access to essential interfaces, hardware and software features, and other tools equivalent to those available to the platform and its business partners.

Greater competition, in turn, will drive down prices for hardworking Americans. A recent economic report found that a more competitive app distribution ecosystem would save U.S. consumers nearly \$9 billion per year.¹ To put those savings in context, they could pay for the annual groceries of 1.4 million American families, or the annual gasoline costs of 3.7 million American families, according to the report.² Moreover, these estimates do not include other benefits of a more competitive app ecosystem, such as “new and increased app development, greater consumer choice in privacy and parental controls, and the introduction of innovative features.”³

The Energy and Commerce Committee has a long history of advancing bipartisan legislation that establishes clear rules for rapidly evolving markets. The App Store Freedom Act presents another opportunity for the Committee to protect consumers and strengthen America’s leadership by ensuring that the mobile app economy remains open to competition.

We respectfully urge you to advance this bipartisan legislation without delay. We stand ready to serve as a resource as the Committee considers this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Coalition for App Fairness

Little Tech Association

Internet Works

cc: The Honorable Kat Cammack (R-FL)

The Honorable Lori Trahan (D-MA)

¹ Sumit Sharma, US Consumer Benefits of Unlocking Competition in App Distribution on Smartphones 5 (2026), <https://insights.sumitsharma.consulting/p/app-store-competition>.

² *Id.* at 7.

³ *Id.* at i.