



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Mark Finchem (R-11)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rep. Finchem Calls on State Attorney General to Investigate Censorship by Big Tech

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Mark Finchem (R-11) today called on the Arizona Attorney General to open an investigation into alleged censorship by social media platforms.

“I am calling on the Arizona Attorney General’s Office to open an investigation concerning the actions of social media platforms and their open, notorious and unrestricted election interference through the suppression of individual speech. It appears that these ‘social’ platforms who claim liability protection under Sec. 230 USC as platforms are in actuality acting as publishers.

“It is stunning that elected officials can be forced to allow individuals the freedom to post whatever foul remarks they might, but social media platforms can delist or cancel someone’s account for promoting a candidate. I am asking the Attorney General to examine the actions of Twitter, Facebook and Google in the context of free and open society. From indexing to outright ‘ghosting,’ it is antithetical to our right to be heard.

“In the Netflix movie, ‘The Social Dilemma’ those individuals who built the social media experience are now telling how they began to have concerns over the ethical use of psychological manipulation. Moreover, they are explaining how the psychological manipulation game is played.

“In August of this year, Arizona Attorney General Brnovich was one of a handful of state attorneys general who sat down with President Trump and U.S. Attorney General Barr to discuss using Sec. 230 and state consumer protection laws to combat online platforms censoring lawful speech on the basis of political viewpoint. President Trump’s Executive Order issued in May directs the Department of Justice to work with state attorneys general on legal recourses at the state level, including consumer protection laws, to address abusive, unfair, and deceptive practices like speech censorship and content moderation, data tracking, and inconsistent application of terms of service.

“I commend the Attorney General Brnovich on his efforts to hold big tech accountable for their behavior, and I encourage him to continue on this course. We either have a psychological manipulation of people, or we may be watching the illegal use of resources to influence the election of all partisan offices, from sheriff and justice of the peace, to president of the United States. This is beginning to look like a massive racketeering case or a Sherman anti-trust case. Whether voter suppression or illegal campaign contributions, it is important for us to reign in the big tech oligarchs and hold them accountable for their behavior.”

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