



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Mark Finchem (R-11)

Representative John Fillmore (R-16)

Representative Leo Biasiucci (R-5)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reps. Finchem, Fillmore & Biasiucci Call for Arizona Attorney General to Open an Antitrust Investigation

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representatives Mark Finchem, John Fillmore, and Leo Biasiucci today called on the Arizona Attorney General’s Office to open an antitrust investigation into certain technology/communications service providers.

“Companies such as Amazon Web Services, Twitter, and Facebook have in recent years become what are essentially monopolies and, as such, de facto communications utilities,” said Representative Finchem. **“Their services have exploited the ‘terms and conditions of use’ to harvest vast information from users for profit, creating massive wealth for the corporate ‘Big Tech’ oligarchs.**

“Most alarming is how these monopolies have taken action against a certain segment of society with an array of dissenting opinions, appearing to act in a coordinated manner to de-platform, delete, shadow ban, and restrict platform speech of users from their publicly available offerings. Such actions are outrageous and should not be permitted in a free society. As limited-source providers, they have a responsibility to society to act as the Section 230 platforms they originally received protection for,” Finchem added.

“When the media outlets have free reign to exclude an entire segment of society by abridging their voice in the public square, we no longer have a free society, but have entered a new era where citizens of this nation are told in not so many words, ‘sit down and shut up,’” said Representative Fillmore.

“You can disagree all you want with what a person has to say, including the President of the United States, but as long as that person is not advocating violence against another person or group of people, he or she have every right to express their opinion and observations on a public platform,” said Representative Biasiucci.

When opinion writers such as those at the Arizona Daily Star, Arizona Republic, and Arizona Capitol Times are permitted to publish their opinion – no matter how baseless it may be – for the entire world to see, but a private citizen without the power of the big printing press says something in dissent of group think, there is a compelling case for the Legislature to examine how citizens, who are the foundation of a democratically elected republic, and their speech is controlled by “big tech,” and to implement safeguards against abuse. Our nation was founded on the protection of unpopular political speech and, at one time, people who challenged government were held up as icons of civil rights. We need to find out what happened.

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