



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Regina Cobb (R-5)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Cobb: “I Won’t be Intimidated from Fighting to Protect Arizonans from Big Tech Monopolies & Exorbitant Fees”

Will continue to fight for [HB 2005](#), which would lower costs for small businesses, increase choice & savings for consumers by preventing big tech’s “app tax”

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative Regina Cobb (R-5) said she won’t back down in her fight to end the anti-competitive and monopolistic practices of Big Tech. Cobb said she will continue to build support for her legislation to protect consumers and small businesses from Big Tech’s monopolistic fees—better known as the “app tax.” Cobb made the comments after her legislation, which was scheduled for a Senate Commerce Committee vote in March, was abruptly held just before the hearing started.

“Effectively cancelling a hearing to stop lawmakers from having a public debate and before Arizona citizens is wrong,” Representative Cobb. **“Seeing Big Tech’s tactics up close proves that they will stop at nothing to maintain their monopoly, while generating record profits on the backs of hardworking innovators and Arizona consumers. Our fight to lower costs for businesses and consumers is far from over – I will never be intimidated by Silicon Valley and their bully tactics. In fact, Big Tech’s desperation to kill HB 2005 has calcified my opinion that checking their monopoly power is more important than ever.”**

Cobb said she won’t back down and is continuing to speak to colleagues about this issue saying, **“Rest assured: this fight is far from over. I will continue to work with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to stop Big Tech from using their monopoly power to tax our small businesses, entrepreneurs and innovators, and squash legislation keeping their power in check. They have continually silenced their critics, but they can’t shut us all down.”**

HB 2005 would level the playing field for app developers by giving them, and their customers, more choice—lowering costs for developers, lowering prices for consumers and incentivizing growing tech companies and entrepreneurs to relocate to Arizona. After HB 2005 successfully cleared the Arizona House of Representatives, David Heinemeier Hansson, a co-founder of software maker, Basecamp, said the company [would move its operations](#) from Chicago to a state like Arizona that offers a level playing field free from the Big Tech monopoly.

Apple and Google’s effective monopoly allows them to force app developers to use their respective payment systems, where they impose a 30 percent “app tax” on purchases made through the App Store and Google Play store. This not only harms small app developers through increased costs but results in higher prices and reduced choice for consumers who have no way to avoid these anticompetitive fees. HB 2005 would free small app developers from the “app tax” by allowing them to accept payments without being forced to go through Apple and Google.

Since Representative Cobb’s legislation was introduced, voices from across the political spectrum have spoken out about the need to reign in Big Tech, with some highlighting the legislation in Arizona as a necessary step to act where Congress has not:

- **Protocol:** [Apple and Google lobbyists are swarming Arizona over a bill that would reform the app store](#)
- **WSJ:** [Why the Next Big-Tech Fights Are in State Capitals](#)
- **Arizona Capitol Times:** [OP-ED: It’s time to free ourselves from ‘Big Tech’ monopoly](#)
- **Capitol Media Services:** [Arizona lawmakers step into battle between app developers, tech giants](#)
- **KJZZ:** [Bill Would Allow Arizona-Based Developers To Skip Apple Store, Google Play](#)
- **NY Times:** [States Are Right to Rebel Against Big Tech](#)
- **Politico:** [Apple, Google app store fights move to the states](#)

Regina Cobb is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 5, which includes La Paz and Mohave Counties.

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