

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Organizations Representing Key Sectors of the Creative Communities Urge Congress to Hold Silicon Valley Accountable**

*The American Federation of Musicians, the Content Creators Coalition, CreativeFuture, and the Independent Film & Television Alliance Address the House and Senate Committees that Oversaw Recent Facebook Hearings*

**LOS ANGELES, CA / WASHINGTON, DC** – April 19, 2018 – Today, the American Federation of Musicians, the Content Creators Coalition, CreativeFuture, and the Independent Film & Television Alliance, four organizations representing over 240,000 members and 670 companies, sent letters to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary; the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. These committees held hearings with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg on April 10 and 11, 2018, where Facebook’s founder was questioned on the company’s accountability and responsibility for what appears on their platform.

The letters, which will be entered into the official record for both hearings, ask Congress to ensure “that Facebook, Google, Twitter, and other internet platforms ... (1) take meaningful action to protect their users’ data, (2) take appropriate responsibility for the integrity of the news and information on their platforms, and (3) prevent the distribution of unlawful and harmful content through their channels.”

“Facebook, Google and other internet platforms post massive amounts of content often without the consent of the people who create this content and without compensating the creators. Congress should take strong action to ensure that musicians and other creators are appropriately compensated and credited when their work is used by these very profitable corporations,” said American Federation of Musicians International President Ray Hair.

“The same dominant internet platforms that have successfully connected billions of people across the globe and mapped the world refuse to take action to stop the real harms their platforms have enabled. They boast of their technological know-how and then claim to be powerless to police fake news, human trafficking, and unlicensed content on their platforms,” said the Content Creators Coalition. “While we are encouraged by the recent hearings, Congress needs to do more to hold these platform monopolies accountable.”

CreativeFuture CEO Ruth Vitale said: “Silicon Valley touts their size when bragging about their contribution to the American economy, but when they want to fend off regulation, they quickly retreat to ‘just two guys working in the garage...’ and claim that rules will ‘stifle innovation.’

“Big Tech has made it to the top of American industry when it comes to profitability. So, this is the time when they should take responsibility. They must do what they can to stop crimes from happening on their turf.”

Jean Prewitt, President & CEO of the Independent Film & Television Alliance, added: “The internet should create important opportunities for expanded distribution, new audiences, and new revenue streams for independent creatives. That promise, however, can only be realized if online platforms and services, like Facebook, Google, Twitter and others, respect the personal and economic rights of consumers and creators and work cooperatively to ensure that those principles are observed throughout the ecosystem. We appreciate Congress taking the first steps to evaluate the extent to which corporate and legislative action may be needed to achieve that result.”

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#### **ABOUT AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS**

80,000 musicians comprise the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM). We perform in orchestras, backup bands, festivals, clubs, and theater – both on Broadway and on tour. AFM members also make music for film, TV, commercials, and sound recordings.

#### **ABOUT CONTENT CREATORS COALITION**

The Content Creators Coalition (c3) is an artist-run non-profit advocacy group representing creators in the digital landscape. c3’s work is significant to anyone who creates and makes a living from their creations. c3’s objectives are two-fold: First, economic justice for musicians and music creators in the digital domain. Second, ensuring that the current and future generations of creators retain the

rights needed to create and benefit from the use of their work and efforts. c3 has grown into a national organization based on representation, advocacy, and mobilization for sustainable careers in the digital age.

#### **ABOUT CREATIVEFUTURE**

CreativeFuture is a nonprofit coalition of more than 530 companies and organizations and more than 160,000 individuals – from film, television, music, book publishing, photography, and other creative industries. We’re mobilizing our members to speak up about the value of creativity, the importance of copyright in protecting creativity, and the massive harm caused by the global theft of our creative works. Millions of creatives and thousands of businesses around the world depend on copyright to bring all of us countless moments of inspiration, learning, and joy. Our mission is to advocate for strong but appropriate copyright protections and to empower creatives to speak out against piracy and how it affects their ability to create and to make a living. To learn more, visit [www.creativefuture.org](http://www.creativefuture.org).

#### **ABOUT IFTA**

The Independent Film & Television Alliance® (IFTA®) is the global trade association of the independent motion picture and television programming industry. Headquartered in Los Angeles, IFTA represents and provides significant entertainment industry services to more than 130 member companies in 19 countries, consisting of independent production and distribution companies, sales agents, and financial institutions engaged in production finance. Collectively, IFTA Members produce more than 400 independent films and countless hours of television programming each year, generating more than \$4.5 billion in distribution revenues annually. For more information, please visit [www.IFTA-online.org](http://www.IFTA-online.org).