

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Over 90 Prominent Members of the Creative Communities Urge Policymakers to Take a Meaningful Step Toward Platform Responsibility**

*The group, led by CreativeFuture and the Independent Film & Television Alliance (IFTA), believes Silicon Valley companies are thriving in a legal framework that prioritizes growth and wealth for the internet sector over responsibility and accountability.*

**LOS ANGELES, CA / WASHINGTON, DC** – June 14, 2018 – Today, a group of over 90 prominent creatives, *which includes producers, directors, writers, musicians, songwriters, authors, photographers, and more*, submitted a letter to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. The letter asks policymakers to consider and take action to address “the failure of Facebook, Google, and others to take responsibility is rooted in decades-old government policies, including legal immunities and safe harbors, that treat these companies differently than other industries and actually *absolve* internet platforms of responsibility.”

The letter requests that Google be brought in to testify before these committees and be compelled to take “a broader view of its responsibility.” Creatives from these sectors, along with CreativeFuture and IFTA, believe “[i]t’s long past time to hold Google, Facebook, and other internet platforms responsible for their actions and inactions that hurt consumers, creativity, and the American economy.”

CreativeFuture CEO Ruth Vitale said: “This letter, signed by working creatives involved in hundreds of productions employing thousands of people, explains to policymakers that our communities are tired of companies like Google profiting unfairly from the illegal use of their work. They have chosen not to accept responsibility for what occurs on their platform because they are not compelled

to do so. This is why we are asking our leaders in Washington to take steps in promoting accountability in Silicon Valley.”

IFTA President & CEO Jean Prewitt commented: “The lack of responsibility and tolerance of illegal activity by major internet companies impacts the livelihoods of independent creatives while Silicon Valley gets rewarded. We encourage all U.S. policymakers to take a serious look at the concessions being made for these platforms and recognize it’s time to make Big Tech abide by the same rules that govern every other industry.”

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### **ABOUT CREATIVEFUTURE**

CreativeFuture is a nonprofit coalition of more than 540 companies and organizations and more than 190,000 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 140 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).

