

August 13, 2025

Chairman Andrew Ferguson
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20580

Dear Chairman Ferguson,

The Federal Trade Commission should immediately investigate whether Big Tech's artificial intelligence firms are engaging in anti-competitive and unfair practices by contracting almost exclusively with ideologically aligned media outlets. These arrangements appear to be unenforceable, limit competition, and risk violating the ideological neutrality requirement in President Donald Trump's recent Executive Order on AI.

The Media Research Center's research shows AI companies contract with left-leaning media outlets over ten times more often than with outlets rated "lean right" or "right" by AllSides. Courts have upheld the right to use publicly available material for AI training, suggesting these exclusive agreements are unnecessary and may exist primarily to funnel payments to favored outlets.

Such contracts—like those between OpenAI and The Atlantic or The Associated Press—consolidate influence in a few legacy voices, reduce market diversity, and embed bias into AI systems. The concern is magnified as firms such as Anthropic, Google, xAI, and others integrate AI into "fact-checking" operations.

Big Tech's selective contracting, combined with its political influence and push for stricter copyright enforcement, appears designed to block new competitors and entrench control over information markets.

We urge the FTC to investigate these arrangements for evidence of anti-competitive behavior and unfair practices that could distort the AI marketplace and undermine public trust.

Sincerely,

David Bozell
President