


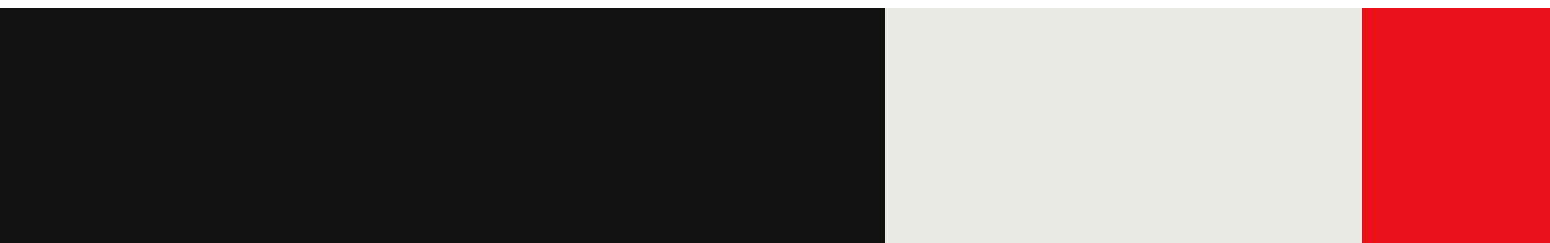
US Chamber of Commerce has Big Tech's back against regulators

Article



The news: The **US Chamber of Commerce** has weighed in against the rising tide of Big Tech regulation by attacking **FTC Chair Lina Khan** and taking up the cause against wider industry regulation.

Why it's worth watching: The chamber is the nation's largest business lobbyist, and it uses its substantial influence to protect the interests of its member businesses, [per](#) Bloomberg.



- The US Chamber of Commerce isn't known as a mouthpiece for **Silicon Valley** but has recently risen to fight against a toughening antitrust enforcement.
- Most notably, the organization has been repeatedly **attacking** the FTC and Khan, a known Big Tech critic.
- Growing animosity between the chamber and the FTC stemmed from the latter's **denial of 35 of the 37 public records requested** by the chamber in December 2021.
- "Any time we see a big expansion in regulatory power over industry, we're going to get involved," said **Suzanne Clark**, the chamber's chief executive officer, in an interview with Bloomberg. "We didn't choose the FTC and antitrust. That battle came to us."

The bigger picture: Big Tech gains a vocal and powerful ally against government regulators with the involvement of the chamber. This comes after the technology industry's biggest lobbying group, the **Internet Association**, disbanded last year.

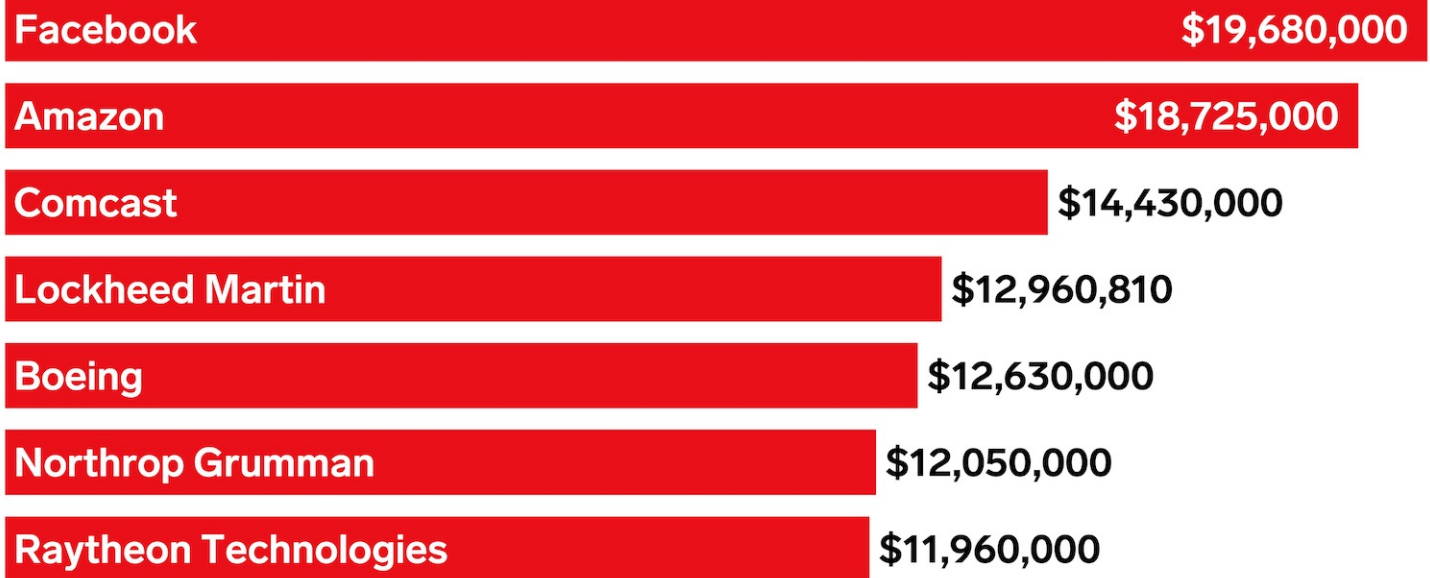
- The chamber is preparing a lawsuit to get access to documents related to Khan's policy changes and any communications between the FTC and the White House.
- It's taking up the fight because it says changes to the antitrust framework affect all large and small businesses.
- The tech sector's influence within the chamber has increased recently. **Amazon** started donating only a year ago and **Meta's** Chief Privacy Officer **Erin Egan** recently joined the chamber's Board of Directors.

The takeaway: The US Chamber of Commerce, which argues that regulation will stifle innovation, will continue to fight regulators like the FTC by attempting to discredit its leadership. This sentiment runs counter to White House arguments that corporate mergers and declining competition lead to higher prices for consumers.

It remains to be seen if additional lobbying pressure will quell the government's toughening stance on regulation and if White House **appointees** can outlast lobbying efforts.

Big Tech Leads US Federal Lobbying Efforts

Total spend, 2020



Source: Public Citizen, 2021

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