

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 2, 2021

Mr. Jack Dorsey  
Chief Executive Officer  
Twitter, Inc.  
1355 Market St #900  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

We write to you regarding the ongoing problem of copyright infringement on Twitter and the platform's apparent refusal to address it.

Creative content drives engagement on Twitter, yet unlike numerous other platforms, Twitter has not acquired licenses necessary to ensure that all creators are properly compensated for use of their works. Twitter claims it is not a primary destination for sharing music; however, musicians comprise many of the most followed accounts on the platform. The problem of infringement is well-documented. For example, in the first half of last year alone, Twitter itself reported receiving notices identifying 1.6 million infringements.<sup>1</sup>

Additional infringing content almost certainly goes undiscovered as Twitter has taken the unprecedented step of charging creators for a fully functional search API that can identify instances infringement at scale. To be clear, the standard API Twitter offers free of charge is of such limited functionality that it cannot provide meaningful results at the scale of infringement occurring on the platform. While Twitter offers a more sophisticated API to academic researchers for free, it denies these tools to creators whose infringed works help generate revenue for the company. Between refusing to pay creators for their works and obstructing their discovery of infringing works, it appears that unauthorized use of copyrighted works is an unacknowledged part of Twitter's business model.

The addition of Twitter's Tip Jar feature, which permits users to send electronic payments to posters, demonstrates a lack of understanding and respect for the rights holders involved in the content posted on Twitter. A more targeted measure that would indeed help its users benefit from their creativity, would be for the company to pay to license the content on its platform. Not only would this improve user experience by granting lawful access to copyrighted works, but it would also ensure that rights holders are properly compensated for their contribution to the content.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://transparency.twitter.com/en/reports/copyright-notices.html#2020-jan-jun>

Entering into licensing agreements would thus avoid the status quo in which creators rely on crowd-funded donations while Twitter continues to profit from infringement of their works.

Given the pervasiveness of this issue, we would like to have a better understanding of how Twitter intends to effectively address these concerns. Specifically:

1. What will Twitter do to enable content owners to meaningfully search for and identify infringement of their works at a scale commensurate with the amount of infringing tweets occurring on the platform at no additional cost to them?
2. Tweets can be uploaded in a fraction of a second, and hundreds of millions are posted to Twitter every day. What is Twitter doing to ensure that takedown notices are addressed in a manner that corresponds with that speed and volume?
3. Will Twitter add robust content protection technology across all of its platforms and implement it effectively to decrease the posting and reposting of infringing content?

We appreciate your continued attention to our concerns and look forward to your responses to these questions by August 27, 2021.

Sincerely,



Rep. Kelly Armstrong



Rep. Hakeem Jeffries



Rep. John Curtis



Rep. Adam Schiff



Rep. Ted Deutch



Rep. Ted W. Lieu



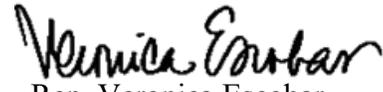
Rep. Ron Estes



Rep. Mondaire Jones



Rep. Louie Gohmert



Rep. Veronica Escobar



Rep. Bill Johnson



Rep. Richard Hudson



Rep. Greg Pence



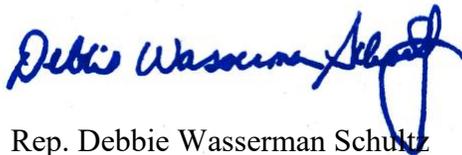
Rep. Ben Cline



Rep. Billy Long



Rep. David N. Cicilline



Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Rep. Tony Cárdenas



Rep. Ashley Hinson



Rep. Debbie Dingell

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ritchie" followed by a stylized flourish.

Rep. Ritchie Torres

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Chu" in a cursive style.

Rep. Judy Chu