

July 10, 2020

Mark Zuckerberg
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Facebook, Inc.
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, California 94025

Cc: Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

As leading U.S. organizations fighting climate change, we are deeply concerned with the spread of climate denial and misinformation on Facebook and urge you to take stronger action. On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we request a meeting with Facebook to discuss your recent concerning actions and change in policy.

Last year, Facebook promised to join global efforts to slow the spread of misinformation by partnering with third-party fact-checkers to decrease the platform's role in driving this phenomenon. But now, while the world is battling a pandemic and infodemic of an unforeseen scale, Facebook is taking a step backward. Instead of allowing Science Feedback to fact-check content, Facebook is overruling decisions made by climate scientists and using its Oversight Board as a cover for their inaction. It is also being reported that Facebook intends to exempt opinion pieces from its fact-checking program, opening up a loophole that's already been abused.

This decision must be reversed.

Climate change and the serious threats it poses to life everywhere should no longer be treated as political theatre, where scientific facts do not matter. Facebook must prove its commitment to taking climate change seriously by:

- ensuring that climate scientists are reinstated as the final authority on climate information and disinformation and that all users who were targeted and engaged with fact-checked climate denial content receive relevant corrections
- not allowing loopholes for climate denial groups
- disincentivizing the sharing of misinformation
- removing outlets that engage in hate speech and climate denial from your list of trusted news sources and fact-checkers
- bringing its Oversight Board into operation and ensuring it will provide real, independent oversight of the misinformation and lies running unchecked on Facebook

Any other course of action would make Facebook an accomplice in efforts to spread climate denial.

Facebook's response to Covid-19 misinformation has shown it is capable of combating misinformation on its platform that poses a danger to public health. We urge you to do the same for climate change.

Signed,

Friends of the Earth US
Greenpeace US
Waterkeeper Alliance
Natural Resources Defense Council
Union of Concerned Scientists
Public Citizen
Earthjustice
350.org
Avaaz
Media Matters
Climate Power 2020