

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
Chair  
Committee on House Administration  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Lofgren:

Cancel culture—the phenomenon of silencing free speech because of opposition to the views expressed—is a dangerous trend sweeping the nation and threatening the fundamental rights of Americans. Recently, two of our Democrat colleagues pressured a dozen television providers to cancel Fox News, One America News Network (OANN), and Newsmax. The House of Representatives can fight back against cancel culture by ensuring that Members and staff have access to these targeted news networks on the House’s internal television system. We therefore ask you, as chair of the committee responsible for internal House operations, to reject cancel culture and ensure that the House’s television system carries Fox News, OANN, and Newsmax.

On February 22, 2021, Rep. Anna Eshoo and Rep. Jerry McNerney sent letters to twelve cable, satellite, and streaming television providers pressuring them to disassociate with Fox News, OANN, and Newsmax. Under the guise of addressing alleged “misinformation,” Rep. Eshoo and Rep. McNerney accused these television providers of playing “a major role in the spread of dangerous misinformation” and demanded to know what “adverse actions” the providers planned to take against Fox News, OANN, and Newsmax. Rep. Eshoo and Rep. McNerney also demanded to know whether these companies planned to continue carrying Fox News, OANN, and Newsmax as part of their television packages.

This attempt to cancel Fox News, OANN, and Newsmax is not just a radical attack on the First Amendment’s freedom of the press. It also blatantly ignores how left-wing news outlets regularly pushed false narratives about President Trump and the Trump Administration, including debunked allegations of Russian collusion. More fundamentally, however, the attacks on Fox News, OANN, and Newsmax are the wrong solution to fight misinformation. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously warned almost a century ago that the remedy for alleged “falsehoods and fallacies” is “more speech, not enforced silence.”

The House of Representatives must stand together in rejecting cancel culture and fighting attempts to restrict the freedom of the press. Republicans have asked Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler to convene a hearing to examine the dangers of cancel culture. As we wait for Chairman Nadler’s response, the House Administration Committee can do its part by rejecting any effort to cancel news channels available to Members and staff. The House currently provides Members and staff with access to Fox News and OANN through the Architect of the

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Capitol and the House Recording Studio, which are both overseen by the House Administration Committee.

Even in the face of our sharp disagreements on policy, the House should always promote the free exchange of ideas rather than cancel the ideas with which we disagree. To this end, we ask for your commitment that Fox News and OANN will remain available to Members and staff on the House's internal television system. In addition, to demonstrate the House's commitment to rejecting cancel culture, we ask that you direct the Architect of the Capitol and the House Recording Studio to make Newsmax available to Members and staff as part of the House's internal television system. These small steps will go a long way toward demonstrating bipartisan support for fundamental American freedoms and a rejection of the dangerous phenomenon of cancel culture.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis  
Ranking Member  
Committee on House Administration



Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary