



Statement of Misti and Phil Money

Founders of 6Money's Creation's

House Energy and Commerce Committee

Thursday, March 25, 2021

On behalf of ourselves, our employees, and – most importantly – our customers, we would like to thank the committee for hearing our testimony about the impact “big tech” has had on our lives and our business. We appreciate in advance the time taken to consider our testimony in this important matter.

Our company, 6Money’s Creations, specializes in custom decorated apparel. We started up humbly in January of 2016, trying to bring in whatever income we could, being in between jobs at the time. In the beginning, it was just the two of us and our four children – hence the name 6Money’s Creations – and was far from the success story it has become today.

The Money family is from a very small town in Ohio, in the heart of Amish country. At the time we began 6Money’s Creation, the population of our town was in the neighborhood of only 250 people. Since most of the out-of-town visitors came to visit the aforementioned Amish country, we had to rely very heavily on the few local customers we could cobble together to keep our business running.

Slowly, but surely, though, 6Money’s Creations began to grow and accumulate a steady, loyal base of customers. We were in a position to present at fairs and trade shows to grow our base. We started innovative promotions through our Facebook and Instagram pages. In March of last year we were very excited to launch our “T-Shirt of the Month” program for our customers. Things were progressing nicely.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic threw a wrench into our plans – as it did with so many small businesses like ours. The early days were a time of great uncertainty for our family and our business. The trade shows and fairs we had come to rely on for much of our business were shut down indefinitely. We didn’t know whether we should – or even could – move forward with production and our planned promotions. The future of our company hung in the balance.

Fortunately, we were able to go ahead. This was due in no small part to our customer base that was able to find us through Facebook and Instagram and online retailers. We are so thankful we did, because 6Money’s Creations has continued to thrive and grow. From our humble beginnings in a tiny town in Ohio, we now have customers in 26 different states across the country.

We can confidently say that were it not for big tech companies, our family would be in economic dire straits. Without them, a relatively new small business from an even smaller town would not have been able to survive this global health and economic crisis. The resources available to us through these tech giants are ones we could not have possibly secured on our own. Nor, could we have ever hoped to reach that large of an audience and customer base organically.

We are sure that we are hardly the first company to share in this gratitude to tech platforms for our success. We hope that we are not the last. We want as many families to have the same opportunities that we had to live out our American dream. In an increasingly digital

world that is unsure about when regular, in-person activities will resume again, big tech companies will be integral to that journey.

As you consider potential changes to the business models of these tech companies, or bringing any sort of legal action against them, we hope you will consider our story. We also hope you will consider the stories that have yet to be written that may not be so without a robust tech sector free to innovate.

Thank you once again for your time and attention to our testimony in this matter.