



August 8, 2018

Mr. Sundar Pichai
Chief Executive Officer, Google Inc.
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043

Dear Mr. Pichai,

Since its founding, an essential component of Google's DNA has been its promise and its plea to its employees: "Don't Be Evil." You recently changed that mantra to "Do the Right Thing" - also a worthwhile goal for one of the world's most influential corporations. But well-meaning slogans are no substitute for tangible actions, and recent reports that Google is developing a search app for China that will do the bidding of Chinese censors is beyond repugnant.

In response to your reported capitulation to the Chinese government's demands to launch a censorship based search engine, the outcry has been clear and poignant. From human rights organizations like ours, to Members of the United States Congress, to millions of Google users and employees, you have been roundly criticized for this cowardly move that clearly values your corporate bottom-line over the rights of innocent Chinese citizens who are continually denied basic freedoms by their oppressive government.

Is it worth it? We know you have shareholders to answer to, but your participation in the Chinese government's elaborate suppression of free access to the Internet would indeed represent "being evil" and certainly isn't the "right thing" to do. In 2010, we applauded Google when they pulled out of China choosing individual liberty over censorship under the influence of Sergey Brin. Putting people over profits shows leadership, courage, and basic human decency.

China is the world's foremost censor of the Internet, having built the notorious Great Firewall and deploying an army of over 50,000 people to monitor, control, and suppress the free flow of information on the Internet. However, they are not content merely to deny the Chinese people access to the same uncensored information that you, your family, and your employees enjoy. China is a brutal police state that persecutes, punishes, and imprisons those who dare defy its authoritarian controls.

In 2010, Google knew the right thing to do and acted accordingly. We urge you now not to succumb to the siren call of China's large market and abandon the ethical foundations of your entire corporate culture. Were Google to return to China under these circumstances, it would represent a repudiation of your motto and inevitably would not only signal that China's appalling behavior was acceptable, but could very well cause a pile-on of other corporate entities putting their profits ahead of people.

Over 10 years ago, our namesake and the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to the US Congress, Tom Lantos, aptly summarized and crystallized the sad truth about the devastating moral compromises many major corporations make in order to appease the Chinese government and gain access to its vast market. During a 2007 House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, Congressman Lantos drilled high tech executives whose decisions to work with Chinese censors resulted in more than one human rights activist being imprisoned for nearly a decade. His admonishment then could easily apply to Google today should

6 Dixon Avenue, Suite 100 - Concord, NH 03301 - (603) 226-3636
www.lantosfoundation.org

you choose to move down this path: “While technologically and financially you are giants, morally you are pygmies.”

We urge you not to act as moral pygmies. Rather than submit to China’s demands to collaborate in the censorship of the Internet, we call on Google to dedicate \$10 million annually to support technologies that currently enable the citizens of China to safely and anonymously circumvent the firewalls behind which their government holds them captive. Deploying a small portion of your vast wealth to help those imprisoned behind the digital walls of the 21st century would be an affirmative step beyond “don’t be evil” to show that Google actually seeks to “do the right thing.”

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Katrina Lantos Swett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katrina" being the most prominent.

Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett
President