

October 29, 2019
Eric Babson
babson@math.ucdavis.edu
1094 Cragmont Avenue
Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am concerned about trolls. Democracy famously relies on an informed electorate with the disasters of Brexit and the 2016 US election illustrating the dangers of disinformation. After substantial warning and even a Senate report the country appears even less prepared for another such onslaught next year. The social media platform Facebook remains essentially unregulated and even more of a monopoly with its chief executive taking quiet dinners with right wing pundits, explicitly allowing you to lie in your ads and recently finding a smattering of Russian and Iranian troll accounts ramping up their messaging and technique. The President has been legitimating conspiracy theories through Mr Giuliani's irregular diplomatic channels and his irregular phone calls while backing President Putin over US intelligence agencies. The Justice Department has begun criminal investigations against those who even looked into the 2016 attacks.

Please assure me that you will protect the elections.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our informed democracy.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson