



January 30, 2024

House Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 231  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Wilson and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Chamber of Progress, a tech industry coalition promoting technology's progressive future, I write to you in regards to HB 53, the "E-Commerce Antimonopoly Study of 2024."

Our organization works to ensure that all Americans benefit from technological leaps. Our corporate partners include companies like Google, Meta, Snap and Amazon, but our partners do not have a vote on or veto over our positions.

We urge you to **oppose** HB 53.

### **Vibrant competition benefits vulnerable populations the most**

We agree that competition is essential to a well-functioning economy. Even as inflation ebbs, consumers face high prices for everyday household necessities, so it is essential that consumers benefit from a wide variety of choices, both online and offline.

HB 53 singles out online commerce for study, ignoring the fierce competition between online marketplaces and brick-and-mortar retailers. Moreover, as drafted, the study ignores the reality that the largest retailer in the country operates offline stores, an online store, and an online marketplace for third party sellers.

As drafted, HB 53 unfairly scrutinizes online marketplaces and the Maryland consumers and small businesses that rely on them. To the extent legislators are concerned about market power concentration in retail, a better approach would

be to craft a study that does not discriminate between online and offline commerce.

Sincerely,

Alain Xiong-Calmes  
Director of State & Local Public Policy