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.


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
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