



**WRITERS GUILD
OF AMERICA WEST**

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Ash Kalra, Chair
Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1776 (Aguiar-Curry) – Competition and Opportunity in Markets, for a Prosperous, Equitable and Transparent Economy (COMPETE) Act. – CO-SPONSOR/SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Kalra,

The Writers Guild of America West (WGAW), on behalf of the more than 10,000 members who write television shows, movies, and streaming programs, is proud to co-sponsor AB 1776, which would codify the California Law Revision Commission’s (CLRC) recommendations to update state antitrust law to outlaw monopolistic actions by single companies.

In December 2025, after two years of extensive discussions between antitrust academics, experts, practitioners and the public, the CLRC recommended that California antitrust law should be revised to include a provision prohibiting conduct by single firms, called Single Firm Conduct, “that is tailored to reflect California’s values and enforcement priorities...and is not bound to federal antitrust law.”¹

The WGAW has long raised concerns about consolidation and anticompetitive behavior in the media and entertainment industry. Media conglomerates like Disney, Amazon, and Netflix have consolidated market power that they wield to stifle competition and harm creative workers and consumers. For instance, Amazon owns an array of interconnected businesses that reaches across the entire value chain of entertainment—from production through Amazon MGM Studios, to exhibition through Prime Video, and the distribution of other streaming services through Amazon Channels and Amazon Fire devices. Amazon reportedly has used its leverage to demand 15% to 45% of other streamers’ revenue, shares of their advertising, content for its own Amazon platforms, and control over the competing platforms’ user experiences and their viewership data.²

¹ California Law Review Commission, “MEMORANDUM 2026-10 Antitrust Study: Single Firm Conduct (Staff Draft Final Recommendation, Update to Commission-Approved Language, and Public Comment)” (Jan. 20, 2026), <https://clrc.ca.gov/pub/2026/MM26-10.pdf>.

² Writers Guild of America West, “The New Gatekeepers: How Disney, Amazon, and Netflix Will Take Over Media,” (Aug. 2023), https://www.wga.org/uploadedfiles/news_and_events/public_policy/GatekeepersReport23.pdf.

Without rules limiting anticompetitive behavior of a single firm, companies like Amazon have the power to disadvantage competitors across the entertainment industry and streaming ecosystem. AB 1776 would codify the CLRC's unanimous recommendations to update state antitrust law.

AB 1776 is a critical step towards fostering a vibrant, competitive entertainment industry in the state of California. **We are proud to co-sponsor AB 1776 and respectfully urge your AYE vote on this measure when it comes before you.**

Sincerely,

Shelagh Wagener
Political and Legislative Director

Erica Knox
Research & Public Policy Director

cc: Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry