



Federal Trade Commission

600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20580

Sent via Certified Mail

February 3, 2026

FORMAL COMPLAINT

**RE: Pervasive Harm Of Unregulated Dissemination Of Misinformation By Foreign Actors
With The Aid Of United States Based Information Platforms**

Ben Crump Law represents the interests of Black. public figures and the families, consumers, and communities affected by deceptive platform practices occurring on major digital platforms, including YouTube and Google. These harms arise from coordinated networks operating overseas that misrepresent their identity and location, disseminate demonstrably false content, and improperly obtain monetization, amplification, and credibility signals on U.S.-based platforms. Kenny Lattimore, Faith Jenkins Lattimore, Judge Greg Mathis, Loni Love, MC Lyte, Pastor Jamal Bryant, and Cheryl “Salt” James are just a few of those directly impacted.

These foreign-based accounts publish false content that is monetized, algorithmically amplified, and integrated into advertising and search ecosystems, creating the appearance of legitimacy. Platform systems – including verification cues, recommendation engines, and search prominence – confer credibility on content that is demonstrably false, misleading consumers, advertisers, and the public. Despite notice, these practices persist.

While YouTube and Google publicly represent that they prohibit misinformation, impersonation, and deceptive conduct, their enforcement practices are inconsistent and ineffective, particularly with respect to foreign actors who face no meaningful consequences. As a result, platforms continue to profit from monetized deception, while affected individuals, families, and legitimate creators are left without practical recourse.

The resulting consumer and market harms include:

1. Deceptive monetization and advertising revenue derived from false representations
2. Distortion of competition and unfair disadvantage to legitimate creators
3. Manipulation of consumer perception through algorithmic amplification
4. Foreseeable reputational, economic, and personal safety harms to U.S. individuals and their families

We respectfully submit that the current regulatory framework does not adequately address platform-enabled deception at scale, particularly where platforms exercise control over



monetization, amplification, and credibility signals while disclaiming responsibility for resulting harm.

We urge the Commission to:

1. Examine whether these practices constitute unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce.
2. Review the role of algorithmic amplification, verification mechanisms, and monetization systems in misleading consumers and advertisers.
3. Coordinate with state partners to assess whether existing classifications sufficiently protect the public and preserve market integrity.

Unchecked, these practices undermine consumer trust, distort digital markets, and erode confidence in online information systems. Failure to act after notice effectively enables ongoing consumer harm.

We appreciate the Commission's attention and stand ready to provide additional documentation upon request.

Respectfully submitted,
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cc
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