



Oral Statement
Dr. Jason Sattizahn
Monopoly Busters: Shadow Hearing
“AI Crossroads: Stopping Big Tech’s Race to
Monetize AI through Surveillance”
September 17, 2026

Co-Chair Representative Jayapal, representatives Deluzio, Ryan & Craig and members of the Monopoly Busters Caucus:

Thank you for having me here. I’m Jason Sattizahn, a former user experience researcher who worked at Meta. I’m not here to talk to you about how AI is on some doomed path to threaten American’s well-being, but rather, I want to discuss how tech companies have *already* forced Americans into a world of inescapable AI surveillance. Instead of boring us with details about myself, I actually think it’s most prudent to start this discussion on AI by talking about an old Meta co-worker of mine: Mark Zuckerberg.

A week ago, Meta and Mark Zuckerberg launched “Muse”, yet another AI tool from Meta. This AI assistant completes tasks for you, and can access your sensitive data, including email, calendars and payments. Two days ago, Mark took to Twitter to publicly argue that Meta and tech companies themselves are the ones truly incentivized to build safe AI for users, and that we should trust that they have the capability to build AI safely.

His argument is laughable. Let me tell you why.

In 2025, I became a whistleblower. I testified to members of the Senate Judiciary committee and in multiple court cases about how Meta intentionally suppressed research about the safety of their AI-integrated products so that Meta could eliminate “paper trails” showing that they harmed users. As for Zuckerberg? I testified under oath how he explicitly lied to Congress by stating that teams were not told to focus on engagement and growth above safety. As the courts agreed, Meta was a “public nuisance” that had misled the public about the risks of their products.

This brings me to the crux of why I am appreciative to be here. We have all heard recent public discussion about how AI's rapid advancements could lead to future catastrophe. I argue that although legitimate, these discussions stoke Americans' fears while risking us overlooking the urgency of addressing a much more basic and impactful threat of AI: the consistent surveillance of you and your data, often without your knowledge.

America is already in a place where AI surveillance is inescapable within everyday technological products. If we focus on Meta's products alone, we see that AI has been integrated into every Meta product. Basic features like "search" now require searching with AI. Any image you post or comment you make publicly will be used to train AI. Meta has gone so far as to fully lock people out of the glasses they purchased if they do not submit to giving Meta AI their data.

Why are companies like Meta doing this?

Money. These companies make staggering profits from offering experiences fueled by AI models. AI improves social media recommendations that encourage the addictive usage that impacts advertising revenue. By improving AI models with your images and written text, Meta can sell you Muse, that new AI agent that Mark really wants his own company to regulate. For Meta to sell you in-home robots – yes, this is real – Meta needs AI models for spatial and audio processing.

Each of these services is sustained by AI models built from surveilling you and everything you do online. "AI" and "data" are the fuel that companies use to power the different services they offer. If a limited number of companies control the limited fuel source, they are essentially monopolies - their ability to harvest vast amounts of data effectively restricts any new entrants from competing with them.

And we're already there.

Rather than end with specific policy recommendations, I'd rather end with discussing what would **not** be effective moving forward. As we've seen, tech

companies are not reliable narrators around their products and intentions. Recent trials with Meta revealed that they actively mislead the public.

Above all else, we need to understand that we would be foolish to either rely on tech companies to regulate themselves or to believe that they would approach any conversation with American citizens or politicians in good faith. Everything we know about the companies who hold all of our data has demonstrated that they are nothing if not self-serving. They mislead, distract, and manipulate the very information we consume - all in the interest of profits.

Thank you for your time, the opportunity to be with you today and I look forward to your ongoing commitment to **protect** the millions of Americans already subjugated by these companies.