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The Right Honourable Theresa May
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street, London
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Dear Prime Minister,

Please accept my deepest condolences for the horrific terrorist attacks in Manchester and London. I admire your strength and leadership which is proving invaluable during these challenging times.

It is my honor to extend an invitation for you to visit the region of Silicon Valley in California. After reading your statements regarding the most recent attack, I noticed your focus on the role technology companies play in combatting terrorism and extremist ideas online.

It is my privilege to represent Silicon Valley in the United States Congress. Global technology companies like Apple, Google, Facebook and Twitter are among those based in California's 17th Congressional District. I agree that Silicon Valley has a critically important responsibility to ensure that the online communities for which their companies are most known do not become a safe-haven for terrorists. There are important ways for us to work together on this pressing issue.

If I may, I would like to highlight steps being taken by these leading technology companies to remove terrorist content and reduce the reach of extremist groups online.

For example, Facebook announced last month that it would hire three thousand new employees to review millions of reports of inappropriate and violent content. On top of the four thousand five hundred reviewers that already work on this issue at Facebook, these new positions will work to prevent the spread of harmful propaganda. Additionally, Twitter has suspended more than 636,000 accounts related to terrorism to date. I trust they will remain vigilant in this effort to squash the voices of terrorists.

In addition to human review, new technologies are available to address these threats. I recently spoke with Dr. Hany Farid, a Dartmouth College professor, who developed a technology recognizing inappropriate online content. His technology was originally developed to detect child pornography and can be used to find and remove violent beheadings and terrorist propaganda. Last December, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Microsoft partnered to create an online database to share the digital fingerprint of terrorist content online. Once this content is

flagged as harmful, such images, videos, and audio content are shared in the database and removed across all platforms. These technologies are viable but will need human monitoring to protect freedom of speech safeguarded by the U.S. Constitution.

While I am certain more work to address this issue must be done, technology companies are being responsive and helping lead the effort to combat online sources that threaten our mutual goals for peace and prosperity.

Another way to reduce the threat of terrorism is to tell the stories of refugees. As you well know, migrants are fleeing fragile states across the Middle East and Africa to seek a better life in Europe and America. In addition to removing violent content online, we should be proactive and offer the narrative of brave and peaceful people fleeing these regions in search of a better future for themselves and their families. The digital age has allowed us to become a single, global community that should be used as powerful force for good.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope you consider my invitation to visit Silicon Valley at your convenience and meet with the leaders of our technology companies working on these most challenging issues of our time.

Sincerely,



Ro Khanna
United States Member of Congress
California's 17th District

cc The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson, Secretary of State
 The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
 The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Minority Leader
 The Honorable Ed Royce, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee
 The Honorable Eliot Engel, Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee