



Small Business Coalition Declares March 20 to be “SBA: Dump Amazon” Day

Demand the Small Business Administration “Dump Amazon” as Co-sponsors of National Small Business Week

The American Booksellers Association (ABA) and a number of independent businesses and associations are declaring March 20 “SBA: Dump Amazon” Day.

The Day of Action is a social media-focused protest of Amazon’s continued co-sponsorship of the National Small Business Week. This year’s event is April 28–May 4.

“Over the past two decades, Amazon has grown a stranglehold on the book industry and crushed healthy competition in the marketplace for small business,” said Allison Hill, CEO of ABA.” Hill continued, “It is preposterous that a government agency charged with assisting and protecting the interests of small business concerns and preserving free competitive enterprise would select Amazon as a co-sponsor of National Small Business Week — a disconnect heightened by the Federal Trade Commission’s simultaneous lawsuit against Amazon for illegally maintaining monopoly power. Granting Amazon the opportunity of sponsorship allows it to whitewash anti-competitive behavior and the harm its doing to small business while forcing small businesses to engage with their biggest threat to accept this opportunity. Enough is enough.”

In September 2023, FTC and 17 state attorneys general sued Amazon alleging that the company uses a set of interlocking anticompetitive and unfair strategies to illegally maintain monopoly power. FTC and the AGs argue that Amazon’s actions allow it to stop rivals and sellers from fairly competing against Amazon, among many other charges.

“National Small Business Week is meant to be a celebration of small businesses,” said David Grogan, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy for ABA. “So we find it a bit ironic and troubling that the week is co-sponsored by Amazon — a huge corporation currently being sued by the Federal Trade Commission and 17 state AGs for alleged antitrust violations that the FTC claims have severely harmed small businesses. Certainly, booksellers have been impacted by Amazon’s anti-competitive tactics perhaps more than any other businesses. For the SBA to enter into a partnership with Amazon (and other huge corporate sponsors) for the week dedicated to small business is simply a slap in the face of every small business in the country.”

Given that Amazon has spent the past two decades using anticompetitive behavior in an attempt to run its small business competitors out of business, and is currently being sued by regulators, the Day of Action is focused primarily on Amazon's cosponsorship of National Small Business Week.

After a number of complaints to the Small Business Administration from both ABA and Small Business Rising (SBR) regarding corporate cosponsorship of National Small Business Week were unheeded by representatives from the SBA, ABA and a number of SBR partners took matters into their own hands. On March 20, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders will be making their voices heard, demanding that Administrator Guzman do the right thing and "dump Amazon."

The coalition is inviting and encouraging anyone concerned about corporate power, and Amazon's attacks on small business and entrepreneurship, to join with them on March 20 to amplify this message.

About ABA

ABA is a not-for-profit trade association supporting over 2,500 independent bookstores across the country. ABA was founded in 1900 and advocates for booksellers on a daily basis.

Contact: Ray Daniels, CCO, American Booksellers Association, ray@bookweb.org