



1543 Wazee Street  
Suite 460  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Jeff Bezos, Founder/CEO  
Amazon  
410 Terry Ave. N  
Seattle, WA 98109-5210

Dear Mr. Bezos,

We write in our capacity as state legislators. We want the business community and American consumers to know that we endeavor to balance the twin imperatives of commerce and consumer protection in the marketplace. And, while we appreciate reports of the efforts made by platforms and online retailers to crack down on price gouging as the American community faces an unprecedented public health crisis, we are calling on you to do more at a time that requires national unity. That is why we are reaching out to you as five of the largest platforms and online retailers directly to address this problem.

As COVID-19 spreads throughout the country, it is especially important that Americans are not taken advantage of by unscrupulous sellers of products at exorbitant prices. Unfortunately, independent third-party organizations and journalists have documented multiple examples of price-gouging of items people need to protect themselves since the World Health Organization declared a global health emergency on January 30.

For example:

- On Amazon, [U.S. PIRG Education Fund found](#) that more than half of hand sanitizers and facemasks available spiked by at least 50% compared to the average price. One in six products sold directly by Amazon saw similar price spikes.
- On Craigslist, [someone was selling](#) a two-liter bottle of Purell Advanced hand sanitizer for \$250--ten times the normal price.
- On Facebook Marketplace, an eight-ounce bottle was being [sold for \\$40](#).
- Attorney General offices are also getting reports of alleged price gouging online and at bricks and mortar locations.

While many of these items have since been removed, they were available for sale, and consumers are harmed when they purchase heavily marked-up products. Even new protections by your company including heightened monitoring, bans on certain advertisements, and bans on selling certain items, have failed to remove exorbitantly priced critical supplies during the

COVID-19 pandemic. When consumers are prevented from getting necessities to protect their homes and loved ones, or in this case, help prevent the spread of the virus, consumers suffer not only economic harm, they may suffer serious health consequences as well.

With the pandemic expected to continue, your platform must enact measures to prevent price gouging. We urge you to implement the following measures, or others that your technicians devise, to ensure consumers do not have to worry about being taken advantage of while buying essentials to keep them healthy during emergency situations:

1. **Set hard caps on price increases during emergencies:** Rather than playing whack-a-mole to stop price gouging after it has already occurred, online retail platforms should prevent exorbitant price increases from occurring in the first place by setting and enforcing price increase limits based on a 90-day average of the item's price before an emergency began. Exceptions to these price increases due to increased cost of business for sellers should be proposed to the online retailer and approved only after disclosure of additional costs actually incurred, including the identity of the wholesaler or supplier that levied the increase.
2. **Trigger price gouging protections independent of, or prior to an emergency declaration:** Price gouging on a platform often begins prior to official emergency declarations. The above protections should be triggered when your system detects pricing spikes generally (think of scarcity at a time of recession or stock market crash), or conditions that could lead to price gouging like pending weather events or future possible health emergencies.
3. **Create and maintain a "Fair Pricing" Page/Portal** where consumers can report price gouging incidents to you directly. A simple tool requesting the name of the vendor, the item for sale, the alleged unfair price, and the state of residence of the complainant would quickly and efficiently allow you to identify and freeze or remove truly bad actors and make appropriate referrals for enforcement or prosecution. These complaints should be made available upon request by our Attorney General's office.

Your company has created an important online platform with a team of engineers capable of devising solutions to numerous problems. These are just a few potential solutions, and we hope your company will put its considerable technological prowess to work implementing these or other solutions to better protect your shoppers.

We believe you have an ethical obligation and patriotic duty to help your fellow citizens in this time of need by doing everything in your power to stop price gouging in real-time. We look forward to your response to this letter and partnering with you to protect our citizens.

Sincerely,

Title	First Name	Last Name	State
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Representative	Neil	Rafferty	Alabama
Representative	Ivy	Spohnholz	Alaska
Representative	Leo	Biasiucci	Arizona
Representative	Andrés	Cano	Arizona
Representative	Kirsten	Engel	Arizona
Representative	Charlene	Fernandez	Arizona
Representative	Rosanna	Gabaldón	Arizona
Representative	Daniel	Hernandez	Arizona
Representative	Pamela	Powers Hannley	Arizona
Representative	Diego	Rodriguez	Arizona
Representative	Denise	Garner	Arkansas
Representative	David	Whitaker	Arkansas
Assemblymember	Rebecca	Bauer-Kahan	California
Assemblymember	Wendy	Carrillo	California
Assemblymember	Ed	Chau	California
Assemblymember	Steven	Choi	California
Assemblymember	Kansen	Chu	California
Assemblymember	Megan	Dahle	California
Assemblymember	Laura	Friedman	California
Assemblymember	James	Gallagher	California
Assemblymember	Lorena	Gonzalez	California

Assemblymember	Reginald	Jones-Sawyer, Sr.	California
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Assemblymember	Brian	Maienschein	California
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Senator	Steven	Bradford	California
Senator	Anna	Caballero	California
Senator	Lena A.	Gonzalez	California
Senator	Jerry	Hill	California
Senator	Hannah-Beth	Jackson	California
Senator	Connie	Leyva	California
Senator	Susan	Rubio	California
Senator	Nancy	Skinner	California
Senator	Henry	Stern	California
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Representative	James	Coleman	Colorado
Representative	Lisa	Cutter	Colorado
Representative	Meg	Froelich	Colorado

Representative	Serena	Gonzales-Gutierrez	Colorado
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Representative	Edie	Hooton	Colorado
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Representative	Chris	Kennedy	Colorado
Representative	Cathy	Kipp	Colorado
Representative	Susan	Lontine	Colorado
Representative	Dylan	Roberts	Colorado
Representative	Emily	Sirota	Colorado
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Senator	Jessie	Danielson	Colorado
Senator	Mike	Foote	Colorado
Senator	Pete	Lee	Colorado
Senator	Ray	Scott	Colorado
Senator	Tammy	Story	Colorado
Senator	Faith	Winter	Colorado
Senator	Rachel	Zenzinger	Colorado
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Representative	Devin	Carney	Connecticut
Representative	Christie	Carpino	Connecticut
Representative	Laura	Devlin	Connecticut
Representative	Joshua	Elliott	Connecticut
Representative	Brian	Farnen	Connecticut
Representative	Charles	Ferraro	Connecticut
Representative	Livvy	Floren	Connecticut
Representative	Robin	Green	Connecticut
Representative	Irene	Haines	Connecticut
Representative	Carol	Hall	Connecticut
Representative	Stephen	Harding	Connecticut
Representative	Leslee	Hill	Connecticut
Representative	Kathy	Kennedy	Connecticut
Representative	Nicole	Klarides-Ditria	Connecticut
Representative	Kathleen	McCarty	Connecticut
Representative	Ben	McGorty	Connecticut
Representative	Tom	O'Dea	Connecticut
Representative	Cara	Pavalock-D'Amato	Connecticut
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Representative	Rosa	Rebimbas	Connecticut
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Representative	Richard	Smith	Connecticut

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Representative	Roy	Takumi	Hawaii
Senator	Donna Mercado	Kim	Hawaii
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Representative	John	Connor	Illinois
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Representative	Natalie	Manley	Illinois
Representative	Joyce	Mason	Illinois
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Representative	Lamont	Robinson	Illinois
Representative	Katie	Stuart	Illinois
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Senator	Zacharia	Wahls	Iowa
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Representative	Richard	Farnsworth	Maine
Representative	Nicole	Grohoski	Maine
Representative	Craig	Hickman	Maine
Representative	Patricia	Hymanson	Maine



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Representative	Richard	Pickett	Maine
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Representative	Christina	Riley	Maine
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Representative	Rachel	Talbot Ross	Maine
Representative	Maureen	Terry	Maine
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Senator	Eloise	Vitelli	Maine
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Delegate	Lorig	Charkoudian	Maryland
Delegate	Debra	Davis	Maryland
Delegate	Mary	Lehman	Maryland
Delegate	Brooke	Lierman	Maryland
Delegate	Eric	Luedtke	Maryland
Delegate	Maggie	McIntosh	Maryland
Delegate	Julie	Palakovich Carr	Maryland
Delegate	Jared	Solomon	Maryland
Senator	Jill P.	Carter	Maryland

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Senator	Clarence	Lam	Maryland
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Senator	William	Smith	Maryland
Senator	Mary	Washington	Maryland
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Representative	Josh	Cutler	Massachusetts
Representative	Paul	Donato	Massachusetts
Representative	Sean	Garballey	Massachusetts
Representative	Tami	Gouveia	Massachusetts
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Representative	Natalie	Higgins	Massachusetts
Representative	Kathleen	LaNatra	Massachusetts
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Representative	Jack Patrick	Lewis	Massachusetts
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Representative	Paul	Mark	Massachusetts
Representative	Paul	McMurtry	Massachusetts
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Representative	Maria	Robinson	Massachusetts
Representative	Lindsay	Sabadosa	Massachusetts
Representative	Jon	Santiago	Massachusetts

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Senator	Ryan	Fattman	Massachusetts
Senator	Marc	Pacheco	Massachusetts
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Representative	Hodan	Hassan	Minnesota
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Representative	John	Huot	Minnesota
Representative	Fue	Lee	Minnesota
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Representative	Mary	Murphy	Minnesota
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Senator	Suzanne	Geist	Nebraska
Senator	Dave	Murman	Nebraska
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Assemblymember	Oswaldo	Fumo	Nevada
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Assemblymember	Rochelle	Nguyen	Nevada
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Representative	Lisa	Bunker	New Hampshire
Representative	Gerri	Cannon	New Hampshire
Representative	Renny	Cushing	New Hampshire
Representative	Elaine	French	New Hampshire
Representative	Patricia	Lovejoy	New Hampshire
Representative	Lee	Oxenham	New Hampshire
Representative	Mark	Pearson	New Hampshire

Representative	John	Potucek	New Hampshire
Representative	Mark	Proulx	New Hampshire
Representative	Julie	Radhakrishnan	New Hampshire
Representative	Terry W.	Roy	New Hampshire
Representative	Kris	Schultz	New Hampshire
Representative	Kendall	Snow	New Hampshire
Representative	Walter	Stapleton	New Hampshire
Representative	Brian	Sullivan	New Hampshire
Representative	Matthew	Wilhelm	New Hampshire
Senator	Martha	Hennessey	New Hampshire
Senator	Ruth	Ward	New Hampshire
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Representative	Karen	Bash	New Mexico
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Representative	Marcia	Morey	North Carolina
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Senator	Tim	Mathern	North Dakota
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Senator	Hearcel	Craig	Ohio
Senator	Tina	Maharath	Ohio

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Representative	David	Gomberg	Oregon
Representative	John	Lively	Oregon
Representative	Susan	McLain	Oregon
Representative	Tiffany	Mitchell	Oregon
Representative	Rob	Nosse	Oregon
Representative	Mark	Owens	Oregon
Representative	Carla	Piluso	Oregon
Representative	Bill	Post	Oregon
Representative	Karin	Power	Oregon
Representative	Andrea	Salinas	Oregon
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Representative	Janeen	Sollman	Oregon
Senator	Shemia	Fagan	Oregon
Senator	Jeff	Golden	Oregon
Senator	Chuck	Riley	Oregon
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Representative	Donna	Bullock	Pennsylvania
Representative	Frank	Burns	Pennsylvania
Representative	Tom	Caltagirone	Pennsylvania
Representative	Mary Jo	Daley	Pennsylvania
Representative	Tina	Davis	Pennsylvania

Representative	Austin	Davis	Pennsylvania
Representative	Ed	Gainey	Pennsylvania
Representative	Joe	Hohenstein	Pennsylvania
Representative	Sara	Innamorato	Pennsylvania
Representative	Jennifer	O'Mara	Pennsylvania
Representative	Eddie Day	Pashinski	Pennsylvania
Representative	Chris	Rabb	Pennsylvania
Representative	Adam	Ravenstahl	Pennsylvania
Representative	Melissa	Shusterman	Pennsylvania
Representative	Pam	Snyder	Pennsylvania
Representative	Jake	Wheatley	Pennsylvania
Senator	Tim	Kearney	Pennsylvania
Senator	Thomas	Killion	Pennsylvania
Senator	Katie	Muth	Pennsylvania
Representative	Dave	Bennett	Rhode Island
Representative	Christopher	Millea	Rhode Island
Representative	Hull	Raymond	Rhode Island
Senator	Frank	Ciccone III	Rhode Island
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Representative	Cesar	Blanco	Texas
Representative	Terry	Canales	Texas
Representative	Vikki	Goodwin	Texas
Representative	Ken	King	Texas
Representative	Ina	Minjarez	Texas
Representative	Lina	Ortega	Texas

Representative	Ron	Reynolds	Texas
Representative	Armando	Walle	Texas
Senator	Judith	Zaffirini	Texas
Representative	Patrice	Arent	Utah
Representative	Suzanne	Harrison	Utah
Senator	Ralph	Okerlund	Utah
Representative	Jim	Carroll	Vermont
Representative	Jean	O'Sullivan	Vermont
Senator	Becca	Balint	Vermont
Delegate	Betsy	Carr	Virginia
Delegate	Mark	Keam	Virginia
Delegate	Kaye	Kory	Virginia
Delegate	Paul	Krizek	Virginia
Delegate	Kenneth	Plum	Virginia
Delegate	Roslyn	Tyler	Virginia
Senator	Jennifer	Boysko	Virginia
Senator	Ghazala	Hashmi	Virginia
Senator	Dave	Marsden	Virginia
Representative	Cindy	Ryu	Washington
Delegate	Sammi	Brown	West Virginia
Senator	Senator Sue	Cline	West Virginia
Assemblyperson	Jimmy	Anderson	Wisconsin
Representative	Jill	Billings	Wisconsin
Representative	Amanda	Stuck	Wisconsin
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Senator	Tim	Carpenter	Wisconsin
Representative	Jim	Roscoe	Wyoming
Representative	Andy	Schwartz	Wyoming
Representative	Michael	Yin	Wyoming
Senator	Mike	Gierau	Wyoming