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Federal regulators should hold Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg "individually liable for the company's repeated violations of Americans' privacy," Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden said Tuesday in a letter to the Federal Trade Commission.

The FTC has been probing Facebook since March 2018 to determine if it [violated a 2011 agreement](#) with the government to better protect the private data of its users. Wyden's call for accountability [follows a report by the Post](#) last week that the FTC is reviewing Zuckerberg's past statements and could seek more oversight of his leadership as part of a settlement to end the federal inquiry. [\[Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said to be under close scrutiny in federal privacy probe\]](#)

In his letter, Wyden expressed concern that Zuckerberg, the "public face" of the company, is also its majority shareholder, which "insulates him from accountability to Facebook's board and shareholders." The Democratic senator pointed to documents [unearthed as part of a British investigation](#) into Facebook that showed the company struck special data-sharing deals with other companies, potentially without the full knowledge of its users.

Under its 2011 agreement with the FTC, Facebook is required to give users greater notice and control over what happens with their data, and violations could carry steep fines. In its current investigation, agency has sought to seek a fine from Facebook [ranging into the billions of dollars](#), sources previously told the Post.

A settlement could also include a requirement that the company's board of directors exercise more oversight of Facebook's privacy practices, according to people familiar with the matter who were not authorized to speak on the record because the talks are confidential under law. "Given Mr. Zuckerberg's deceptive statements, his personal control over Facebook, and his role in approving key decisions related to the sharing of user data, the FTC can and must hold Mr. Zuckerberg personally responsible for these continued violations," Wyden wrote.

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"The FTC must also make clear the significant and material penalties that will apply to both Facebook the corporate and Mr. Zuckerberg the individual should any future violations occur." The FTC did not respond to a request for comment. Facebook declined to comment.

Federal watchdogs considered holding Zuckerberg personally accountable as part of their last investigation into Facebook. The FTC initially sought to put Zuckerberg personally under federal order, which would have exposed him to fines and other penalties for future privacy violations, according to records obtained by the Post through the Freedom of Information Act. But agency staff ultimately removed Zuckerberg's name from the final agreement with Facebook in 2011. — *Washington Post*

As he geared up to announce his expected run for the White House in 2020, former Vice President Joe Biden was working the phones as recently as a few days ago to line up fundraising support.

One of his lead backers, former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, said he recently received a call from Comcast executive David Cohen about a potential Biden fundraiser at his home in Philadelphia. Then came the message from Biden himself late last week. Biden told Rendell "he was going to do it [run for president]. He was going to do it with all his energy and heart. He thinks it's the right thing to do and the right thing for the country," Rendell told CNBC in an interview.

Biden will announce his candidacy through an online video Thursday and hold his first public event as a candidate Monday in Pittsburgh, according to a Biden aide who declined to be named. Biden represented Delaware in the U.S. Senate for more than three decades, but he routinely highlights his roots in the blue-collar Pennsylvania city of Scranton.

Rendell and Cohen have been making calls to potential donors to get them on board for what they hope will be one of Biden's first big-money fundraising events. So far, Rendell has called 20 financiers, and 18 have committed to coming to their event, he said. "Pretty much 80 percent of the Democratic fundraising establishment are pretty much all on board," said Rendell, who has known Biden for decades.

Cohen is known to be a prolific fundraiser within the Democratic Party. In 2011, Barack Obama's reelection campaign raised \$1.2 million through two Cohen fundraising events, The Washington Post reported at the time. The support from establishment Democrats such as Rendell, who backed Hillary Clinton in 2008 and 2016, and Cohen could be a boost for Biden, who is late to the fundraising game this cycle. The primary is already crowded, and some of his would-be rivals, such as South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, have put together expansive bundler lists. President Donald Trump, meanwhile, has already brought in a load of cash. His campaign raised about \$30 million in the first quarter.

Some of Biden's closest advisors, including his foundation's vice chairman, Mark Angelson, have reached out to several Democratic fundraisers and donors — as well as people who have already committed to backing other primary contenders, according to people familiar with the deliberations. Cohen, through a Comcast spokesman,

declined to comment. Representatives for Biden, his foundation and Angelson did not return requests for comment.

One of the billionaire donors who heard from Biden's team — and who had signaled skepticism about Biden's likely candidacy — is now reconsidering and may give the former Delaware lawmaker access to an expansive donor network. Other financial supporters have been prodding Biden to get into the race. "I have been urging the VP to run for a while. I trust him, and I know where he stands on issues," Bob Clark, the CEO of Chicago-based construction company Clayco Inc., told CNBC. "Joe Biden is the best person to win the White House in 2020." Clark helped raise at least \$500,000 for Obama's 2008 run for president, according to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics.

— **CNBC**

Pittsburgh is inviting the world to have a seat in the Steel City.

That's the message in the latest marketing campaign launched on Tuesday by VisitPittsburgh, Allegheny County's official tourist promotion agency. VisitPittsburgh parlayed Western Pennsylvanians' quirk for using chairs placed curbside to save a parking space into a video message of hospitality. "Pull up a chair. You are welcomed here," a narrator says at the end.

The video will play on a board in Times Square for four weeks and will be included as part of an introduction for the Mr. Rogers movie, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," when it plays over four weeks at theaters in New York City, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.

VisitPittsburgh's overall promotion campaign is targeting markets including Boston, Chicago, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa and Washington, D.C. The video consists of a series of scenes from around Pittsburgh with people offering seats to others. — **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**

