

Microsoft Has Spent Over \$10 Million Lobbying The Federal Government On Merger Issues Since Announcing Its Proposed Acquisition Of Activision Blizzard

Microsoft's \$68.7 Billion Acquisition Of Gaming Studio Activision Blizzard in January 2022 Was Initially Blocked By The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) On Grounds It Would Hurt Competition Before A Judge Denied The Injunction In July 2023.

In January 2022, Microsoft Announced It Would Acquire Activision Blizzard For \$68.7 Billion, Making It The World's Third Largest Gaming Company.

January 2022: Microsoft Announced It Would Acquire Activision Blizzard For \$68.7 Billion, Making It The World's Third Largest Gaming Company. "Microsoft will acquire Activision Blizzard for \$95.00 per share, in an all-cash transaction valued at \$68.7 billion, inclusive of Activision Blizzard's net cash. When the transaction closes, Microsoft will become the world's third-largest gaming company by revenue, behind Tencent and Sony." [Microsoft, [01/18/22](#)]

In December 2022, The Federal Trade Commission Announced Actions To Block The Acquisition, Alleging It Would "Harm Competition In High-Performance Gaming And Subscription Services."

December 2022: The FTC Announced Actions To Block The Acquisition, Alleging It Would "Harm Competition In High-Performance Gaming And Subscription Services." "The Federal Trade Commission is seeking to block technology giant Microsoft Corp. from acquiring leading video game developer Activision Blizzard, Inc. and its blockbuster gaming franchises such as Call of Duty, alleging that the \$69 billion deal, Microsoft's largest ever and the largest ever in the video gaming industry, would enable Microsoft to suppress competitors to its Xbox gaming consoles and its rapidly growing subscription content and cloud-gaming business." [FTC, [12/08/22](#)]

In July 2023, A Judge Denied The FTC's Injunction Request, Permitting The Acquisition To Proceed.

July 2023: A Judge Denied The FTC's Injunction Request, Permitting The Acquisition To Proceed. "A California judge is allowing Microsoft to close its acquisition of Activision Blizzard after five days of grueling testimony. Microsoft still faces an ongoing antitrust case by the Federal Trade Commission, but Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley has listened to arguments from

both the FTC and Microsoft and decided to deny the regulator’s request for a preliminary injunction.” [The Verge, [07/11/23](#)]

Since The Activision Merger Was Announced In January 2022, Microsoft Has Spent Over \$10 Million While Lobbying Congress And The Federal Trade Commission On “Antitrust Competition and Enforcement” And High-Tech Competitiveness Issues.

Since The Proposed Merger Microsoft Spent Over \$10 Million While Lobbying On “Antitrust Competition and Enforcement” And High-tech Competitiveness Issues Including The Ending Platform Monopolies Act And Platform Competition and Opportunity Act of 2021.

Registrant	Client	Quarter	Year	Relevant Lobbying Issues	Amount
Microsoft Corporation	Microsoft Corporation	Q1	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing, competition, trade, and government procurement. • Competitiveness and high-tech sector. • Deceptive Experiences To Online Users Reduction Act (no bill number). • Competition Policy and antitrust enforcement. 	\$222,000
Microsoft Corporation	Microsoft Corporation	Q4	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing, competition, trade, and government procurement. • Competitiveness and high-tech sector. • H.R. 3825, the Ending Platform Monopolies Act. • H.R. 3826, S. 3917, the Platform Competition and Opportunity Act of 2021. • H.R. 3843, the Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act of 2021. • Antitrust Competition and Enforcement. 	\$2,540,000
Microsoft Corporation	Microsoft Corporation	Q3	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing, competition, trade, and government procurement. • Competitiveness and high-tech sector. • H.R. 3825, the Ending Platform Monopolies Act. • H.R. 3826, S. 3917, the Platform Competition and 	\$2,300,000

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity Act of 2021. H.R. 3843, the Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act of 2021. H.R. 3460, the State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act of 2021. Antitrust Competition and Enforcement. 	
Microsoft Corporation	Microsoft Corporation	Q2	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensing, competition, trade, and government procurement. Competitiveness and high-tech sector. S. 3330, H.R. 6083, Deceptive Experiences To Online Users Reduction Act. S. 2072, H.R. 3953, Unsubscribe Act of 2021. H.R. 3825, the Ending Platform Monopolies Act. H.R. 3843, the Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act of 2021. Antitrust Competition and Enforcement. 	\$2,410,000
Microsoft Corporation	Microsoft Corporation	Q1	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensing, competition, trade, and government procurement in the software industry. Competitiveness and high-tech sector. H.R. 3825, the Ending Platform Monopolies Act. H.R. 3843, the Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act of 2021. H.R. 3460, the State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act of 2021. 	\$2,540,000
					\$10,0120,000

Microsoft Has Contributed \$118,000 To The Campaigns Of At Least 8 Members On The House Judiciary Committee That Will Soon Examine The Management Of The FTC.

The House Judiciary Committee Is Holding A Hearing To Examine The “Mismanagement Of The FTC And Its Disregard For Ethics And Congressional Oversight Under Chair Lina Khan.”

July 13, 2023: The House Judiciary Committee Is Holding A Hearing To Examine The “Mismanagement Of The FTC And Its Disregard For Ethics And Congressional Oversight Under Chair Lina Khan.” “The House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. ET. The hearing, "Oversight of the Federal Trade Commission," will examine mismanagement of the FTC and its disregard for ethics and congressional oversight under Chair Lina Khan. The hearing will also examine the Commission's record of enforcement actions and politicized rulemakings.” [House Judiciary Committee. accessed [07/12/23](#)]

Microsoft Has Contributed \$118,000 To The Campaigns Of At Least 8 Members On The House Judiciary Committee Over Their Careers.

House Judiciary Member	Career Contributions From Microsoft	Source
Jim Jordan	\$20,500	Link
Darrell Issa	\$57,000	Link
Ken Buck	\$20,000	Link
Matt Gaetz	\$1,000	Link
Mike Johnson	\$6,000	Link
Andy Biggs	\$5,000	Link
Tom McClintock	\$2,000	Link
Ben Cline	\$6,500	Link
TOTAL: \$118,000		