

Amazon Shareholder Meeting Question
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
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I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research.

Mr. Bezos, the animosity between you and President Trump is well-documented. The President once accused you of buying the *Washington Post* to peddle political influence. You offered to send Trump on an implied one-way trip into space.¹

Amazon publicly opposed President Trump's first executive order on immigration. The *New York Post* reported Amazon took "a victory lap for its role in halting Trump's travel ban" after that initial order was halted by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.² The company also signed a legal brief opposing Trump's second executive order on immigration and travel.³

Amazon risks reputational harm and consumer backlash for this stance. Polling indicates nearly half of registered voters support Trump's actions on immigration.⁴ After Starbucks similarly came out against Trump's proposed travel restrictions, *Business Insider* reported that "Starbucks' brand ha[d] taken a beating."⁵

And Trump's ban is not the first of its kind. In 2011, after discovering two al-Qaeda members with links to Iraq operating in Kentucky, ABC News reported "the State Department stopped processing Iraq refugees for six months... even for many who had heroically helped U.S. forces as interpreters and intelligence assets."⁶ One Iraqi refugee who aided U.S. troops was assassinated while banned from entry by former President Barack Obama and then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Obama and Clinton's 2011 travel ban wasn't even reported on until 2013 due to an apparent collective lack of mainstream media curiosity about the actions of liberal politicians. Likewise, it doesn't appear Amazon said or did anything regarding the Obama-Clinton travel ban.

These examples raise a few quick questions. First of all, Mr. Bezos, do you see any potential downside for Amazon related to the company's opposition to the President, or from the *Washington Post's* anti-Trump bias?⁷ Current and potential Amazon customers undoubtedly include Trump fans. Are you concerned they may reject Amazon as they see the company opposes a President and policies they support? And why were you willing to risk Amazon's reputation by attacking President Trump's executive order when it seems you lacked the courage to speak out against the Obama-Clinton travel ban?

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¹ <http://nypost.com/2017/02/10/amazon-takes-victory-lap-for-its-role-in-halting-trumps-travel-ban/>

² <http://nypost.com/2017/02/10/amazon-takes-victory-lap-for-its-role-in-halting-trumps-travel-ban/>

³ <https://www.recode.net/2017/4/19/15363806/trump-amazon-google-facebook-travel-ban-rejection>

⁴ <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/319570-poll-over-half-oppose-trump-immigration-order>

⁵ <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/starbucks-brand-perception-plummeted-since-220353319.html>

⁶ <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/al-qaeda-kentucky-us-dozens-terrorists-country-refugees/story?id=20931131>

⁷ <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/byron-york-harvard-study-cnn-nbc-trump-coverage-93-percent-negative/article/2623641>