

JPMorgan Chase & Co. Shareholder Meeting Question
David Almasi, Vice President
National Center for Public Policy Research, May 21, 2019

I'm David Almasi of the National Center for Public Policy Research.

I'd like you to address allegations that Chase Bank has recently "debanked" several people affiliated with the conservative movement. I'm not here to defend anything they have said or done, and I don't personally know any of the people I'm going to mention. Frankly, as someone who works in the conservative movement, I'm asking for a personal reason: Am I next?

Conservative activists Enrique Tarrío, Joe Biggs, Laura Loomer and Martina Markota all found accounts they had with Chase Bank cancelled in the space of just a few weeks this past January and February.ⁱ They say they don't know why.

In Mr. Tarrío's case, he says he was a 10-year Chase customer. He says the online shop he runs went through a three-month Chase certification process long before the account was suddenly closed. Video of Mr. Tarrío appealing his case to Chase employees is available on the website of Project Veritas.ⁱⁱ In the video, several Chase managers say they can't explain the irrevocable closure of Mr. Tarrío's account. One business manager calls it "mind-boggling."

Since the 2016 elections, conservatives are increasingly finding themselves "deplatformed" on social media and shut out of business opportunities that seem unfettered for the other side of the aisle. Ms. Loomer says she's also been kicked off of PayPal, GoFundMe and Venmo.ⁱⁱⁱ Alliance Defending Freedom can't make money from Amazon Smile.^{iv}

Do you know why Alliance Defending Freedom can't profit from Amazon Smile? After it defended the Christian baker in Colorado who refused to decorate a cake for a gay wedding, the Southern Poverty Law Center labeled it a hate group. That was enough for Amazon to give ADF the boot.

That Southern Poverty Law Center that seems to control the charitable giving of one of the world's biggest companies is the same Southern Poverty Law Center to which you gave \$500,000^v in 2017 and refused to discuss when my colleague brought it up during last year's shareholder meeting.^{vi} It's the same Southern Poverty Law Center accused this year of having a "systemic culture of racism and sexism within its workplace."^{vii}

There's plenty of circumstantial evidence here, so I'm asking you to clear the air.

I know you cannot speak about personal banking matters, but can YOU – as chairman and CEO, on the record and before your investors – pledge that JPMorgan Chase and Co. is not debanking people and will not debank them because of their politics? Or, if you are, will you pledge to end this practice so conservatives like me don't have to worry about becoming "unpersons" like in the book *1984*?

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ⁱ https://www.theepochtimes.com/chase-bank-denies-political-motives-after-controversy-erupts-over-closed-accounts_2884333.html

ⁱⁱ <https://www.projectveritas.com/2019/04/16/debanking-chase-bank-says-moral-character-a-reason-why-they-dont-do-business-with-those-types-of-people/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://thehill.com/policy/technology/428600-far-right-activist-laura-loomer-banned-from-paypal>

^{iv} <https://www.adflegal.org/detailspages/blog-details/allianceedge/2018/05/03/amazon-gives-adf-the-boot-from-its-amazonsmile-program-here-s-what-you-can-do>

^v <https://money.cnn.com/2017/08/21/news/companies/jpmorgan-donates-charlottesville-hate-groups/index.html>

^{vi} <https://nationalcenter.org/ncppr/2018/05/15/jpmorgan-chase-slammed-over-500000-donation-to-the-southern-poverty-law-center/>

^{vii} <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/29/us/splc-leadership-crisis/index.html>