Dear Amazon,

Today, I'm delivering you a personal message on our "5-year anniversary".

Yes. We are celebrating with or **without** you. We *prefer* that you participate, but we've learned that despite what you tell shareholders, you really don't want our input.

You proclaim you're "willing to work constructively to address realistic issues and work toward solutions…, while [WE] the proponents appear unwilling to acknowledge any action short of ceasing to offer Rekognition as sufficient."

And you declare "Amazon [as] being an active participant in and contributor to these conversations around the responsible development and use of AI", and "helping lead the industry in these important conversations", but how can this be true when **we** – the proponent – are disregarded, entirely?

When our (albeit strained) "relationship" came about back in 2019, we foolishly envisioned an opportunity for growth, learning & collaboration. So much has transpired – Black Lives Matter Movement, a global pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine – yet after *all* we've been through, and in the face of the groundswell of support that continues to surge in favor of our resolution, Amazon remains steadfast in its opposition to the modest measures requested.

Whether or not you choose to engage with HII, we, TOO, remain steadfast. Steadfast that an independent study on Rekognition is warranted – and NECESSARY – to ensure earnest efforts are taken to thoroughly assess threats Rekognition potentially poses to civil liberties, freedom, and society at large.

To underestimate or dismiss these concerns is dangerous – now more than ever. There's so much we cannot possibly foresee and adopting a passive "wait-&-see" approach is akin to being complicit in inflicting any subsequent harm resulting from the use and/or sale of this quickly-evolving, rapidly expanding tech – and mind you, prior studies indicate the disproportionate likelihood that those negatively impacted will be among the *most* vulnerable & disadvantaged demographics.

FURTHER, there's no harm done in obtaining external, third-party expert insight, strengthening & improving aspects of Rekognition, which I think we can agree would benefit Amazon (& all stakeholders) and at minimum serve as an additional safeguard.

In closing, I reflect on the last ½ a decade we've been engaged in what we originally imagined might develop into informed discourse, an exchange of perspectives, but this stalemate is getting stale. You have such potential for goodness, but you've grown so arrogant. Remember where you came from - those humble, benign origins as an online book retailer…?

In the spirit of progress, HII proudly wishes you a *Happy Anniversary, Amazon*.

Here's to 5 more years – Cheers!!