FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tim Friedlander
President
National Association of Voice Actors (NAVA)
323-304-3865
tim@navavoices.org

Linsay Rousseau
Media Affairs Director
National Association of Voice Actors (NAVA)
747-999-5467
linsay@navavoices.org

June 18, 2024

Public Statement of the National Association of Voice Actors
We need the FTC to act now - Complete the investigation into OpenAI

LOS ANGELES: The **National Association of Voice Actors** (NAVA) strongly supports the complaint of the **Center for AI and Digital Policy** regarding **OpenAI** and **ChatGPT**, now pending before the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC opened its investigation into OpenAI in July of last year, but AI companies are pushing ahead unconstrained.

As voice actors, our work appears in a variety of mediums covering commercials, video games, toys, apps, audiobooks, etc. We create characters, narrate stories and connect with people through our unique vocal skills. Our years of training and experience are infused into each project we undertake.

We are independent artists, working gig to gig. Outside of union SAG-AFTRA jobs (which make up less than 20% of the industry), we have little or no formal agreements, bargaining power or affordable legal representation to tackle the predatory practices by a few large AI companies.

Voice actors are facing an existential risk - our biometric data, our voices, our unique personalities, are being taken by AI companies to train their models, without **Consen**t, **Control** and **Compensation**. We are worried about misuses of our voices, not only to replace the work we do, but also to carry out fraud, to deceive, or to defame or harass. We deserve to know exactly how our voices are used. While we wait for legislation, we urge the FTC to address the unfair and deceptive practices of AI companies immediately.

Right now, individual voice actors are forced to bargain with major corporations who non-consensually monetize our personal data and labor. Only the FTC has the power to balance the scales by providing voice actors with the transparency we need, establishing safeguards, and altering unfair business practices.

We are in imminent danger of long-term damages and the potential elimination of our entire industry and require the immediate protection of our biometric data. We strongly urge the FTC to establish guardrails for the AI industry and protect the work and livelihoods of creators.