



ASSOCIATION OF
RESEARCH LIBRARIES



December 21, 2011

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
1032 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4403

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0516

The Honorable Darrell Issa
2347 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0549

The Honorable Dan Lungren
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0503

The Honorable Shiela Jackson-Lee
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4318

The Honorable Jared Polis
501 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0602

The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4905

Dear Representatives,

I write on behalf of the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA), which consists of three major library associations—the American Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries, and the Association of Research Libraries—that collectively represent over 139,000 libraries in the United States employing over 350,000 librarians and other personnel.

Thank you for your vigorous advocacy of First Amendment rights and the value of an open and secure Internet during last week's markup of the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA). We were particularly impressed by your determination to get to the bottom of the technical questions swirling around SOPA before passing the bill out of Committee, as well as your sensitivity to the serious unintended consequences that such a bill could have for free expression online. There are millions of Internet users who are neither criminal infringers nor content conglomerates, and policies to punish the former or protect the latter can affect broad swaths of innocent users. After all, members of the public are the real intended beneficiaries of copyright's purpose of "promoting progress."

We hope that you will continue to balance the rights of the many interested parties as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Brandon Butler'.

Brandon Butler
ARL Director of Public Policy Initiatives, on behalf of LCA