

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

22 February 2020

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to warmly congratulate you and Vice President Harris as you take office. Our community welcomes your families to Washington, D.C. during a time of significant upheaval in our country.

Mr. President, we wrote to you in October to share our concerns about the impact of the pandemic on our creative communities. You have a long and admirable history of protecting the rights of creative people. Our communities are deeply grateful to you for your commitment to protecting copyright, and we look forward to working with your transition team and Administration.

As a reminder, CreativeFuture is a coalition that includes more than 560 companies and organizations and more than 275,000 individuals, many of whom make their living in film, television, music, publishing, photography, and other core copyright industries.

The signers of this letter (which include the entire membership of our [Leadership Committee](#)), come from across the creative industries, from coast to coast. Many of us are Academy Award®, Emmy®, and Golden Globe® nominees and winners. We are film producers; crew, craftsman, and leadership from the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees; television producers; and actors and leaders from the Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Arts. We are directors and leaders from the Directors Guild of America, writers, singers and songwriters, photographers, and more. We welcome you as our President.

As you well know from your years in the Senate and as Vice President, not everyone in Washington is a supporter of copyright. The creative community has often been on the losing end of the battle to improve copyright protections. While hardworking creatives have been harmed, the largest and most powerful internet platforms in America have profited immensely, as have commercial pirates from around the globe. Pirated versions of our work – our music, television shows, photography, books, and films – has fueled the rise of search and social media platforms, while compensation to creatives has been minimal or non-existent.

As you are no doubt aware, the core copyright industries are an important driver of the American economy, employing 5.7 million Americans and contributing more than \$1.3 trillion to the Gross Domestic Product – more than aerospace, agriculture, or pharmaceuticals. Importantly, small businesses comprise a very large portion of the creative economy in film and television – specifically, 87% of our businesses have fewer than 10 employees.

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2020 was particularly cruel to the creative industries. The pandemic largely shuttered film and television production for much of the year. It closed live music venues, from stadiums to local clubs, and has forced stores that sell our books, video games, and other creative products to close their doors.

To make matters worse, the pandemic led to a rapid increase in digital piracy, as criminal enterprises capitalized on the fact that so many Americans were forced to remain at home. Even before COVID-19, digital video piracy cost the U.S. economy at least \$29.2 billion every year, and possibly as much as \$71 billion, according to a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study. At a time when many are still unable to work, piracy is cutting into the already reduced legitimate revenue streams from our creations, exacerbating our economic challenges.

There is critical work to be done, both in Congress and in the Executive Branch, to ensure that copyright law works better to promote American creativity. We must ensure that the internet, which can be a great tool for creativity, cannot serve as a weapon to harm creatives on a massive scale.

We hope that your Administration will support ongoing efforts to ensure that the biggest internet platforms – companies such as Facebook and Google – have greater accountability for addressing the unlawful conduct occurring across their worldwide services. We know that you are personally aware of how these platforms can be misused and how they dodge accountability – all while making immense profits.

Vice President Harris is deeply familiar with technology issues and has supported measures to hold the platforms to account in the past (e.g., with the passage of FOSTA/SESTA). As the former Attorney General of California, Ms. Harris knows that Southern California is home to the best of American creativity – creativity that inspires the world. As such, she is uniquely positioned to bring Hollywood and Silicon Valley together to achieve voluntary solutions that benefit creatives and internet innovators alike.

We hope that as our President, your team will build upon your ongoing commitment to strong copyright protection as a bedrock element of American domestic and foreign policy and will help us to combat commercial piracy in the United States and around the globe.

We, the undersigned, look forward to working with you and the Vice President to rebuild our shattered communities, restore creative jobs, and maintain America's role both as the global leader in the creative arts and a global champion for free expression and intellectual property rights.

Sincerely,



Ruth Vitale
CEO, CreativeFuture

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Pam Abdy	Stefan Brunner	Cassian Elwes
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Naida Albright	Allison Burnett	Robert Emmer
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Jon Amiel	Stephen Ryan Carman	Britta Erickson
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Taylor Hackford

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Hunter Via
Michèle Vice-Maslin
Joana Vicente

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