

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

8 March 2021

Dear Members of Congress,

As you begin your term, we write to thank you for your vital service to this country as esteemed Members of the 117th Congress. We do so enthusiastically on behalf of our creative communities, represented here by the hundreds of prominent signatories to this letter.

CreativeFuture is a coalition that includes more than 560 companies and organizations and more than 260,000 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 and around the world. 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.

Our nation's creative economy, the world's best, is under siege by digital piracy. These technologies facilitate the unauthorized duplication and distribution of our valuable creative works – among them, our country's major internet platforms that aid and abet illegal enterprises around the world.

Copyright is a critical component of our nation's commitment to free expression, creativity, and innovation. We look forward to working with your office to discuss the priorities of the creative communities and your vital role in protecting the livelihoods of the millions of Americans who depend upon a strong copyright framework.

America's creative industries are a significant economic driver, contributing more than \$1.5 trillion to GDP and employing 5.7 million Americans. The core copyright industries are one of our nation's leading exports, outpacing other major industries like aerospace, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals, according to the International Intellectual Property Alliance. When consumers in other countries enjoy American-made creative products, job creation and economic growth occur here.

The scourge of digital piracy facing the creative economy is exacerbated by an outdated legal framework – adopted in the infancy of the internet – that has failed to provide meaningful protection against pirates and their enablers, who profit from illicit use of our work to the tune of billions of dollars.

A recent study commissioned by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that global online video piracy costs the U.S. economy at least **\$29.2 billion** in lost revenue each year. This is a staggering loss for the creative industries, made all the worse today by the financial impact of COVID-19.

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Strong and effective copyright is not partisan. It benefits our entire country. Whether you are a Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative or libertarian, our nation's creatives and our creative economy ask for and deserve your support.

The signers of this letter affirm that:

- We proudly assert that copyright promotes and protects free speech – protecting copyright against piracy does not undermine free speech.
- We embrace the internet as a powerful democratizing force for creative industries, individuals, and the world at large.
- We demand that major internet platforms (in particular, Google and Facebook), who are rightly under scrutiny for their lack of accountability, must assume greater responsibility for illegal content distributed on their networks that damages our members' ability to make a living. If they do not do more, we urge Congress to act.
- We ask those platforms that offer content protection tools to make them available to all creative people seeking to curb piracy of their work online, and use clear, public, transparent standards in granting access.
- We embrace a strong copyright system at home and abroad that rewards creativity and promotes a healthy creative economy.
- Copyright must be protected around the world through strong commitments from trading partners in our country's many free trade agreements.
- We do not support the export of current internet "safe harbors" in American law into U.S. trade agreements, as these safe harbors are under serious scrutiny here at home.

As you embrace your duties in the 117th Congress, we ask that you help to ensure these goals can be met in U.S. law and policy.

We welcome your thoughts and comments at any time and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Ruth Vitale
CEO, CreativeFuture

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Marilyn Agrelo	Paul Brooks	Dennis Dugan
Pam Abdy	Stefan Brunner	Cassian Elwes
Kate Abernathy	Mark Burg	Alison Emilio
Naida Albright	Allison Burnett	Robert Emmer
Steve Alexander	Marc Butan	Brad Epstein
Jon Amiel	Stephen Ryan Carman	Britta Erickson
Gina Amoroso	Gabrielle Carteris	Blye Faust
Dave Andron	Benedict Carver	Evelina Fernández
Terri Apple	Jon Cassar	Charlie Ferraro
Chris Aronson	Nicolas Chartier	Susan Ferris
Chad Attie	Cotty Chubb	Adam Fields
Roger Avary	Tena Clark	Wendy Finerman
John Baldecchi	Jane Clark	John Flock
George Bamber	Champ Clark	Christopher Floyd
Craig Baumgarten	Dylan Clark	Beau Flynn
Peter Baxter	Christopher Cleveland	James Foley
Jason Beck	Bruce Cohen	Brooke Ford
Steve Beeks	Dara Cohen	Gary Foster
Betsy Beers	John Connor	Greg Foster
Nitsa Benchetrit	Charlie Corwin	Lucas Foster
Jessica Bendinger	Julie Costanzo	Anne Marie Fox
Alec Berg	Cindy Cowan	Rob Fox
Rick Berg	Pierce Cravens	Elizabeth Frank
Albert Berger	Richard Crowe	Jeffrey Freedman
Richard Berger	Patrick Crowley	David Friendly
Claire Best	Kirk D'Amico	Mark Frost
Glenn Bickel	Caitlin Dahl	Brad Fuller
Tony Bill	Melinda Dahl	Antoine Fuqua
Michael Birnbaum	Mark Damon	Sean Furst
Todd Black	Mirza Davitaia	Mathew Gilliat-Smith
Lowell Blank	Martha De Laurentiis	Todd Garner
Jason Blum	Jonathan Deckter	Donna Gigliotti
Robert Bookman	Donald De Line	Mark Gill
Bill Borden	Reinhard Denke	Richard Gladstein
Marty Bowen	Robert Denne	Jonathan Glickman
Chris Brancato	Lorenzo di Bonaventura	Wyck Godfrey
Chris Bremble	David Dinerstein	Dave Goetsch
Cherie Benner Davis	Joshua Donen	Kevin Goetz
Cary Brokaw	Samuel Douek	Neil Goetz

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Bernie Goldmann

Josh Goldstein

Norman Golightly

Larry Golin

Mark Gordon

Don Granger

Maggie Grant

Peter Graves

Melinda Gray

Bonnie Greenberg

Jeffrey Greenstein

Lisa Guerrero

Taylor Hackford

Steven Haft

Jennifer Halperin

Marcy Hamilton

Strath Hamilton

Lisa Hammer

Doug Hansen

Renny Harlin

Scott Harris

James V. Hart

John N. Hart Jr.

Jere Hausfater

Jordan Hawley

Sabine Heinroth

Lisa Henson

Patricia Herskovic

Marshall Herskovitz

James G. Hirsch

David Hoberman

Matthias Hoene

Michael Hoffman

Vanessa Holtgrewe

Gale Anne Hurd

Gregg Hurwitz

Katie Irish

Jon Jashni

Dan Jinks

Mark Johnson

Gil Junger

Marilyn Kagan

Adam Kanter

Chaim Kantor

Monella Kaplan

Uwe Karbenk

Molly Kasch

Paul Kelmenson Latinus

Christian Kennel

Jordan Kerner

C.J. Kettler

Charles King

Chloe King

Janna King

Richard Kletter

Jason Kliot

Timothy Knowlton

Hawk Koch

Adam Kolbrenner

Geyer Kosinski

Wendy Kout

Wayne Kramer

Tony Krantz

Adam Krentzman

Brad Krevoy

Erik Kritzer

John Krokidas

Scott Kroopf

David Kukoff

David Ladd

Tova Laiter

Peter Lalonde

David Larkin

David Lassman

Katherine Laupot

Jay Lavender

Andrew Lazar

Hylton Lea

Tim League

Karrie League

Michelle LeClair

Roy Lee

Mark Leibowitz

Matt Leipzig

Peter M. Lenkov

Harry Lennix

Avi Lerner

Seth Levinson

Todd Lieberman

Hal Lieberman

Tony Lipp

Matt Loeb

Michael London

David Lonner

Matthew Loze

Gary Lucchesi

John Lyons

Jaeson Ma

Anne-Marie MacKay

Dan Mahoney

Salvy Maleki

Mike Marcus

Laurence Mark

Heidi Jo Markel

Joe Matukewicz

Ron Maxwell

Mary Mazzio

Kate McArdle

Tyler McIntosh

Bill Mechanic

Michael Menchel

Barry Mendel

Michael Mendelsohn

Victoria Metzger

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Glenn Morgan
Kathy Morgan
Bobby Moses
Staci Munic
Stephen Nemeth
Gil Netter
Eric Newman
Vincent Newman
Amy Newmark
Rick Nicita
Ted Nicolaou
Mike Nilon
Marcus Nispel
JJ Nugent
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Meyer Shwarzstein
Joni Sighvatsson
Allison Smartt
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Shaun Smith
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Karen Sprecher
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Cathleen Summers
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Andrew R. Tennenbaum
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Bob Tourtellotte
Corey Trent Ackerman
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Larry Turman
Jared Underwood
David Unger
Staci Valentine
Peter Veverka
Hunter Via
Michèle Vice-Maslin
Joana Vicente

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Ruth Vitale
Ariel Vromen
Robert B. Weide
Chris Weitz
Peter Weller
Nick Weschler
Brad Weston
Pat White
Brett Williams
Levi Wilson
Doug Wright
Sophie Xu
Janet Yang
Tami Yellin
Jonathan Yunger
Jamie Zelermyer
Lulu Zezza
Donald Zuckerman
Edward Zwick