



American Society of Media Photographers

150 North 2nd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

June 26, 2015

The Honorable John Conyers
2426 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Conyers:

On behalf of the American Society of Media Photographers, (ASMP), a trade association representing just more than 6500 of this country's top independent professional photographers working in commercial and editorial areas, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the leadership efforts of your colleagues Tom Marino and Judy Chu to put forward a discussion draft of the Copyright Office for the Digital Economy (CODE Act).

We agree with expressed perceptions about the importance of the Copyright Office in balancing the needs of copyright owners and users of copyrighted materials, as well publishers and distributors and the public in a complex, rapidly changing marketplace for copyrighted works. As the draft thoughtfully notes, modernization of the Copyright Office is a critical step in realizing a copyright system that is efficient, fair, and effective in enabling the ability of creators, including our members, to continue to contribute to our cultural heritage and visual history.

We recognize the constraints that have hampered previous efforts of the Copyright Office to more fully respond to changes in technology and the marketplace. Enabling the Copyright Office to gain independence from the Library of Congress would facilitate the possibility of additional staffing, funding, and technology acquisition; all changes crucial to modernizing. In addition, the changes outlined in the draft would permit the Copyright Office to fulfill its crucial function of advising Congress and the administration on intellectual property issues as an independent agency. We see these changes as necessary to the shaping of a digital economy that continues to allow the United States to lead the world economy.

We applaud the bipartisan nature of efforts to build consensus around steps to modernize the Copyright Office and we look forward to working with you, and other members of the House Judiciary Committee including Chairman Goodlatte, Rep. Chu, Rep. Marino, and others to move this legislation forward. ASMP offers full support for this effort. To that end, we will continue to engage in conversation with other stakeholders and members of the House Judiciary Committee to ensure all issues relevant to the modernization of the Copyright Office are fully considered.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Kennedy
Executive Director

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