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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

December 12, 2019

The Honorable Carla Hayden
Librarian of Congress
United States Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20540

Dear Dr. Hayden:

We appreciate your leadership and share with you the view that modernizing the United States Copyright Office (“Office”) is a top priority. We agree that the American people deserve a modern, efficient Copyright Office that is able to meet the needs of both content creators and content users. That is why the Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Intellectual Property has convened a series of roundtables with interested stakeholders on this subject. Through this process stakeholders have raised many questions and offered many productive suggestions. We write today concerning one element that we believe would facilitate our mutual goal of an Office best suited to the 21st Century.

In 1999, Congress established at the Copyright Office’s sister agency, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, two advisory committees to help the leadership of that agency receive expert, in-depth feedback on its operations from leading minds and a variety of stakeholders. Given the intense interest in the modernization of the Office, we believe an advisory body focused on modernization plans and implementation would be beneficial to all involved. Specifically, we believe the Register of Copyrights should select appropriately diverse representatives of users of Office services to advise and assist the Copyright Modernization Executive Committee, especially the CIO and the Register. Those representatives would meet on a regular basis with the CIO, the Register and other decision makers responsible for the Office modernization effort to hear from them about the progress being made on modernization plans.

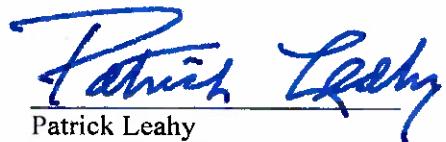
We hope that you share our view that such an advisory committee would be productive and we ask you to consider establishing one expeditiously. Doing so would improve communication between the Library’s OCIO and stakeholders by providing a direct and regular channel to the decision makers responsible for the Office modernization effort. This, in turn, can help reduce uncertainty and build support for your very important work.

Please know that we stand ready and willing to work with you to implement such a committee. We ask that you reply to us with your thoughts regarding the establishment of such a committee by no later than January 2, 2019. We look forward to your reply, and to continuing to work with you on Office modernization efforts.

Sincerely,



Thom Tillis
United States Senator

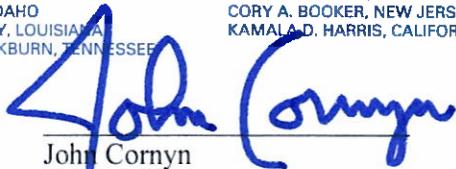


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