



# Internet Association

July 13, 2016

Dr. Carla Hayden  
Librarian of Congress  
The Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20540

Dear Dr. Hayden:

Congratulations on your confirmation as the next Librarian of Congress. The Internet Association applauds your commitment to our nation's library system, and looks forward to working with you on issues critical to the Library of Congress and U.S. Copyright Office.

The Internet Association is the unified voice of the Internet economy, representing the interests of leading Internet companies and their global community of users.<sup>1</sup> It is dedicated to advancing public policy solutions that foster innovation, promote economic growth, and empower people through the free and open internet. Internet companies, and the positive benefits they create in society and the economy, cannot exist without the U.S. copyright system. They depend on the U.S. Copyright Office for clarity, transparency, and effective administration of balanced copyright laws.

The internet sector now represents an estimated 6 percent of U.S. GDP in 2014, totaling nearly \$967 billion.<sup>2</sup> Robust limitations and exceptions in law, strong safe harbor provisions, and mechanisms for efficient licensing are crucial to the ongoing development of online platforms as channels for the lawful sale and distribution of copyrighted works. Internet platforms are also global leaders in online expression, fueling our 21<sup>st</sup> century innovation economy. Additionally, the traditional lines between industries have blurred, creating a dynamic copyright ecosystem with lower barriers to entry for creators and new forms of online content creation.

As you know, the Library of Congress and the U.S. Copyright Office are interconnected both in structure and in mission. Both serve a critical role in advancing the public interest and promoting the useful arts by providing access to works of creativity, in turn fostering economic, social, and cultural value throughout the United States and the world. The Librarian of Congress, together with the Register of Copyrights, has a vital role in on the ongoing administrative and policy functions of the Copyright Office and we welcome the opportunity for expertise and leadership on issues critical to a 21<sup>st</sup> century copyright system.

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<sup>1</sup> The Internet Association's members include Airbnb, Amazon, Coinbase, DoorDash, Dropbox, eBay, Etsy, Expedia, Facebook, FanDuel, Google, Groupon, Handy, IAC, Intuit, LinkedIn, Lyft, Monster Worldwide, Netflix, Pandora, PayPal, Pinterest, Practice Fusion, Rackspace, reddit, Salesforce.com, Snapchat, Spotify, SurveyMonkey, Ten-X, TransferWise, TripAdvisor, Turo, Twitter, Uber Technologies, Inc., Yahoo!, Yelp, Zenefits, and Zynga.

<sup>2</sup> Stephen Siwek, Measuring the U.S. Internet Sector, Economists Incorporated (Dec. 2015) at 4-5.



## Internet Association

As the Library and Copyright Office seek to advance both administrative and policy reforms in the digital age, we urge the following guiding principles:

- 1. Multistakeholder Engagement:** The Copyright Office must not serve a single incumbent industry: instead, it serves the public good, with a mission to effectively carry out the balance preserved in our law. The Copyright Office must have processes inclusive of all stakeholders on both administrative and policy decisions. Stakeholders include creators, librarians, licensees, and users. Effective representation and equal consideration of the perspective of internet companies is vital to the future effectiveness of copyright law to both protect exclusive rights and encourage new forms of creative works.
- 2. Transparency:** Access to information must be prioritized by the Copyright Office and Library. Greater knowledge of copyright ownership and data will empower stakeholders and the public to create and operate a more efficient system. Together, the Library and Copyright Office should endeavor to provide enhanced, updated information to stakeholders.
- 3. Accessibility:** As the next Librarian, you will have a vital role in ensuring that the technology needs of the Copyright Office are met in the digital age. By harnessing the transformative power of modern technology, the Library and the Copyright Office have an historic opportunity to modernize decades old systems, providing greater access and transparency to our nation's works and copyright system. In turn, these advancements will fuel new forms of creative expression. As you explore opportunities for technological upgrades, we urge you to consider the needs of Internet companies.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these priorities with you as you begin your tenure as Librarian. Thank you for your attention to these issues, and we look forward to engaging with your office.

Sincerely,

Michael Beckerman  
President & CEO