



November 20, 2002

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Representative:

We are writing to ask that you co-sponsor HR 5544, the Digital Media Consumers' Rights Act (DMCRA), recently introduced on a bi-partisan basis by Congressmen Rick Boucher (D-VA) and John Doolittle (R-CA). HR 5544 will ensure a proper balance in copyright law between the rights of copyright users and the rights of copyright owners.

Four years ago, Congress passed the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, but unfortunately failed to adequately address fair use and related consumer issues. By introducing the DMCRA, Congressmen Boucher and Doolittle recognized that it is now time for Congress to recalibrate the Digital Millennium Copyright Act to safeguard the interests of the public. The library community strongly supports the DMCRA because it:

- reaffirms fair use in a networked environment
- resolves key concerns regarding hardware and software that permit significant non-infringing uses
- allows researchers to engage in the scientific research of technological protection measures.

Collectively, our five national associations represent many thousands of libraries and librarians across the Nation. The library community has a long-standing interest in federal policies that impact the way libraries provide access to their collections and services to the American public.

We believe that the DMCRA is essential to the future conduct of research and education in the digital age. We therefore urge you to add your support to HR 5544 and to fair use for all Americans. Thank you.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries
American Library Association
Association of Research Libraries
Medical Library Association
Special Libraries Association

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is a nonprofit organization of 124 research libraries in North America. ARL programs and services promote equitable access to and effective use of recorded knowledge in support of teaching, research, scholarship, and community service.
Contact: Prue Adler (202-296-2296)

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is a nonprofit educational organization with 5,000 members dedicated to providing leadership and advocacy in the field of legal information and information policy. Contact: Mary Alice Baish (202-662-9200)

The American Library Association (ALA) is a nonprofit educational organization of over 64,000 librarians, library trustees, and other friends of libraries dedicated to improving library services and promoting the public interest in a free and open information society.
Contact: Miriam Nisbet (202-628-8410)

The Medical Library Association (MLA) is a nonprofit, educational organization of more than 1,100 institutions and 3,600 individual members in the health sciences information field, committed to educating health information professionals, supporting health information research, promoting access to the world's health information, and working to ensure that the best health information is available to all. Contact: Mary Langman (312-419-9095 x.27)

The Special Libraries Association (SLA) is an international professional association serving more than 14,000 members of the information profession, including special librarians, information managers, brokers, and consultants.
Contact: Doug Newcomb (202-939-3676)