

**United States Senate**  
Washington, DC 20510

September 22, 1998

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We have been contacted by various organizations, including financial and educational organizations, regarding the potential consequences of the "Collections of Information Antipiracy Act." Based on discussions with these groups, we are requesting that you delay action on Title V of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (S. 2291) until the Senate Judiciary Committee has had a full opportunity to examine the implications of the measure.

According to the organizations, if the database protection is interpreted too broadly, it will inhibit "fair competition, innovation, economic development, research and education." Therefore, our specific request is that the Committee be given sufficient time to air the issues raised by both proponents and opponents of the measure. To that end, we hope that the Committee will hold hearings prior to final consideration of S. 2291 or any portion thereof.

The importance of our copyright laws cannot be underestimated. We must strike a sensitive balance between protecting the authors who compile data while still ensuring the availability of facts that do not deserve such protections. We are making no recommendation at this time regarding the merits of this database protection legislation but look forward with interest to a full debate on its implications.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Alfonse M. D'Amato  
United States Senator

Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
United States Senator

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