

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

September 23, 1998

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
United States Senate Judiciary Committee
SD-224
Washington, DC 20510-6275

Dear Pat:

It is our understanding that the "Collections of Information Antipiracy Act" (S. 2291/H.R. 2652), legislation intended primarily to protect commercial databases from piracy, is among the provisions in disagreement between the Senate and House versions of the "Digital Millennium Copyright Act" (H.R. 2281), a larger and unrelated bill intended to implement two new international copyright treaties. We also understand that conference on this measure could begin very soon.

As you know, H.R. 2652 was controversial at the time that it passed the House and has become even more so since August 4 when it was grafted onto H.R. 2281 on the day of that bill's passage. Given the breadth of concerns raised in the private and public sectors, particularly the potentially adverse effects of the bill on agricultural and soil conservation research, we write today to urge that the Senate insist that Title V of the House's version of H.R. 2281 (or any similarly intended provision) not to be included in any Conference Report on H.R. 2281 or any other legislation brought before the Senate in this Congress.

Like Senators Burns, Rockefeller, Snowe, and Wyden, we believe that Senate hearings are an essential prerequisite to legislating in this complex area. We look forward to working with you and other interested Senators next year to craft any appropriately drawn legislation that the record may show to be required.

Thank you for your assistance,

Sincerely,

Kent Conrad
U.S. Senator

Byron L. Dorgan
U.S. Senator

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