

**United States Senate**  
Washington, DC 20510-0103

October 2, 1998

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

Dear Chairman Hatch:

It is my understanding that the "Collections of Information Antipiracy Act" (S. 2291/ H.R. 2652), legislation intended primarily to protect commercial databases from piracy, may be included in the conference report for the "Digital Millennium Copyright Act" (H.R. 2281), an unrelated bill intended to implement two international copyright treaties. I am concerned that without the benefit of hearings and careful consideration, such legislation could have inadvertant consequences for the growth of electronic commerce and research.

While I understand the need for database protection, I believe a balance between protecting commercial databases and ensuring the unencumbered, legitimate use of database information needs to be examined. I am making no recommendations about this database protection legislation, except that it should not be included in an unrelated conference report. An issue of such importance and complexity deserves full consideration by the appropriate committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator

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[● ARL Federal Relations and Information Policy](#)  
[| ● Copyright and Intellectual Property Table of Contents](#)

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