

**Congress of the United States
Joint Committee on Printing**
818 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6650
(202) 224-5241

October 1, 1998

Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that included at Title V of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998, which is currently in conference, are provisions of the Collections of Information Antipiracy Act (H.R. 2652 and S. 2291), a measure which has not benefitted from hearings in the Senate.

Chief among my concerns over the Information Antipiracy Act is the potential this legislation holds for government information to be privatized. While I am a strong advocate of privatization when it comes to the provision of services, I am not an advocate of privatizing government information. The American taxpayer funds the creation of government information, and should not be required to pay a private-sector vendor to obtain access to it. Moreover, because government information is in the public domain, no one entity should be given exclusive license to control its access.

Our founding fathers were very determined to ensure that the American citizenry be well informed about the affairs of their national government. Over the past two centuries, the Congress has judiciously guarded this principle, which in the past few years has come under increasing attack. I urge that the conferees not rush to judgement over the Information Antipiracy Act. Please set this provision aside, and give it careful review in the 106th Congress.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

With kindest regards

John Warner

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

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Govt. Info

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GIS

Letters



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