

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4802

September 18, 1998

Dear Senators Hatch and Leahy,

It has come to our attention that legislation recently passed by the House of Representatives intended to implement pending World Intellectual Property Organization copyright treaties (H.R. 2281) incorporated many extraneous provisions, including an unrelated bill dealing with the protection of "collections of information" or databases (H.R. 2652).

We understand that you have convened meetings with representatives of many of the affected industries and constituencies to discuss the implications of this major legislation during the Senate's August recess. We wish to express our concern that without the benefit of hearings, such legislation could have inadvertant consequences for the growth of electronic commerce and research.

Accordingly, we urge you to seek a form of "database" protection legislation which would enjoy broad support in the public and private sectors. We believe that it is important to develop a consensus approach and would like to work with you to resolve this issue in a thorough and thoughtful manner.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

John Rockefeller

Ron Wyden

Conrad Burns

Olympia Snowe

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Last Modified: February 18, 1999