

# Joint Letter to Capitol Hill Opposing H.R. 354, the "Collections of Information Antipiracy Act"

February 8, 2000

Dear Representative,

With floor action likely on competing versions of "database" legislation, we write to urge you to support H.R. 1858, the Consumer and Investor Access to Information Act rather than H.R. 354, the "Collections of Information Antipiracy Act." H.R. 1858 is a bipartisan bill that will preserve value-added downstream uses of information and protect the interests of consumers, educators, small businesses, scientists, and the high-tech community, while providing database producers with additional legal tools to protect their databases.

We fully appreciate the efforts to provide relief through the adoption of H.R. 354. We are concerned, however, that the measure could have unintended consequences that would hurt consumers, educators, small businesses, scientists, and the high-tech community. For example, H.R.354 includes a broad prohibition on the use of facts and then relies on narrow exceptions to deal with issues such as fair use and value-added publications. In our view, the exceptions in H.R. 354 are too vaguely worded and will require extensive judicial interpretation to clarify. Moreover, we are concerned that H.R. 354 could lead to permanent monopoly control over downstream uses of certain information.

When database legislation reaches the floor, we believe you will better promote the interests of information consumers and the businesses driving our economy by supporting H.R. 1858 instead of H.R. 354. We therefore urge you to vote for H.R. 1858.

Respectfully,

Amazon.com, Inc.	Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.	Linguistic Society of America
Amdahl Corporation	Citizens' Council on Health Care	Lycos
America Online, Inc.	College Art Association	MCI WorldCom Music Library Association
American Association for the Advancement of Science	Computer & Communications Industry Association	National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
American Association of Law Libraries	Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility	National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
American Association of Legal Publishers	Computing Technology Industry Association	National Humanities Alliance
American Committee for Interoperable Systems	Consumer Electronics Association	NetCoalition.com
American Council of Learned Societies	Consumer Project on Technology	North Carolina State University Libraries
American Council on Education	Council of Graduate Schools	OMB Watch
American Film Heritage Association	Council on Governmental Relations	Queens Borough Public Library, NY
American Library Association	Digital Future Coalition	Reuters America Inc.
American Meteorological Society	DLJdirect, Inc.	Securities Industry Association
Art Libraries Society of North America	Dun & Bradstreet	Special Libraries Association
Association of American Physicians	Eagle Forum	StorageTek
	EDUCAUSE	U.S. Chamber of Commerce
	Electronics Industries Alliance	United States Catholic Conference
	Excite@Home	Visual Resources Association
		Wells Anderson Legal Tech Services

and Surgeons  
Association of American  
Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of University  
Technology Managers  
AT&T  
Ball Research, Inc.  
Bell Atlantic  
Bloomberg Financial Markets

GoTo.com  
Information Technology Association  
of America  
Inktomi  
JuriSearch.Com

Whizbang Labs!  
Yahoo! Inc.

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

[E-News](#) [Recent](#) [Copyright](#) [Govt. Info](#) [Telecom.](#) [Other Issues](#) [GIS](#) [Letters](#)



[ARL Home](#)

© **Association of Research Libraries**  
**Washington, DC**

Page Design by [Bradley Houseton](#)  
Maintained by [ARL Web Administrator](#)

**Last Modified:** February 10, 2000