

NEWS MEDIA
ALLIANCE

January 19, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte,


On behalf of our 2,000 member newspapers, I write to express our support for your proposal to modernize the Copyright Office of the United States. We appreciate your diligence throughout the last several years in exploring the functional and operational aspects of the Copyright Office and its reporting relationship to the Library of Congress. We also recognize there are many complex issues associated with copyright laws and we look forward to addressing those in future proposals you plan to put forward.

Regarding the modernization proposal, we strongly believe that an autonomous and functional Copyright Office will serve our community, the news media industry, as well as other content creators and ultimately the public. While the Library of Congress serves an important role in preserving historical content – we represent the hundreds of newspapers that submit mandatory deposits to achieve the preservation goal – we also believe the public will benefit from a strives to ensure that copyright owners' rights are protected. High-quality, original news reporting cannot be sustained without strong copyright laws.

Registration is a key function of the copyright office, and the proper infrastructure, resources, and funding are critical tools the Office needs to carry out its duties. We support the ways your proposal attempts to provide for those resources and to carry out this function.

We continue to support your efforts related to this issue, and we look forward to serving as a reference should you need input from the news media industry in this regard. I personally look forward to working with you this Congress.

Sincerely,



David Chavern
President & CEO