



**Board members:**

American Society of Composers,  
Authors and Publishers

Broadcast Music, Inc.

Motion Picture Association of America

NBC Universal

PPL and VPL

Professional Photographers of America (at-  
large)

Viacom

Vin Di Bona Productions (at-large)

**Members:**

American Federation of Television &  
Radio Artists

American Intellectual Property  
Law Association

American Society of Media Photographers

Association of American Publishers

Association of Independent Music Publishers

AT&T

Attributor

Business Software Alliance

CBS Corporation

Church Music Publishers Association

Directors Guild of America

Discovery Communications

Entertainment Software Association

Graphic Artists Guild

Imageline, Inc.

Imagery Alliance

Langley Productions

Magazine Publishers of America

Major League Baseball

Microsoft

National Association of Broadcasters

National Association of Stock Car  
Auto Racing

National Collegiate Athletic Association

National Football League

National Music Publishers' Association

NBA Properties, Inc.

News Corporation

Newspaper Association of America

Professional School Photographers  
Association

Recording Artists' Coalition

Recording Industry Association of America

Reed Elsevier

SESAC

Software & Information Industry Association

Sony Pictures Entertainment

Time Warner

Universal Music Group

The Walt Disney Company

February 6, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515-6501

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I write you today on behalf of the forty-six member Copyright Alliance to express support for some very reasonable and constructive provisions found in HR-4137, "The College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007." The use of publicly funded university networks to steal copyrighted works is quite serious, and this bill addresses that use without placing undue burdens on our higher education system. We understand the bill will be considered on the U.S. House floor tomorrow.

In December the Copyright Alliance hosted a half-day academic symposium at The George Washington University titled "Copyright and the University," and this topic was center stage. We heard firsthand how unauthorized downloading and uploading of copyrighted works remains a serious problem on many campuses. We heard that the providers of these networks bear some responsibility. We also heard from a senior at a large public university who said that in his four years using the campus computer network, he has never once received any communication from university officials cautioning against infringement or demonstrating legal alternatives.

It is for those reasons that the provisions in HR-4137 are so useful. First, they direct publicly funded universities that are providing high-speed networks to educate students on policies and procedures regarding copyrighted works, while also noting the ever-growing legal alternatives available for the enjoyment of music, motion pictures and other creative works. In addition, the bill lets Congress know what these publicly funded institutions are doing to address the larger problem of infringement.

Creative industries in 2005 accounted for \$1.38 trillion, or 11.12%, of GDP, with foreign sales and exports exceeding \$110 billion that year, contributing over 13% of growth. More than 11 million U.S. workers are employed in these creative industries. Piracy costs creative industries, and the U.S. economy, billions each year. The Copyright Alliance is committed to defending the property of rightsholders everywhere.

With access to ultra-fast networks and limited administrative oversight, it is not surprising that so many students at US colleges and universities have begun helping themselves to unauthorized works found online. However, it is in the best interest of not only copyright owners but consumers and the entire economy to reduce piracy, and there are many ways it can be reduced on college campuses.

We at the Copyright Alliance are pleased with the thought and effort this Congress has put into this very serious issue, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share our views with you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Ross', written in a cursive style.

Patrick Ross  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

Representative George Miller  
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor

Representative Buck McKeon  
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor