



THE COPYRIGHT ASSEMBLY

April 21, 2005

Senator Richard G. Lugar, Chairman
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6225

Dear Chairman Lugar:

We are writing today to urge you to support ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime.

As you know, the confidence of American citizens in on-line transactions is being undermined by criminal activity on the Internet, including hacking, identity theft, and other breaches of security and trust. The Cybercrime Convention is the first international treaty to provide minimum punishments for criminal behavior that is focused directly on computer systems or data, or computer-dependent critical infrastructure. The Cybercrime Convention also addresses a serious and growing problem that faces our industries: online theft of intellectual property. From websites offering illegal downloads to the promotion and sale of pirated goods, the Internet has proved fertile ground for infringers around the world.

Congress can only do so much by passing legislation. The government can penalize those who are physically present in the United States who send spam, create viruses, or steal our citizens' personal information. It can punish those who create and distribute child pornography, and the Congress can enact deterrent penalties for those who steal intellectual property. But the reality is that much of this illegal activity takes place abroad. Unless we enlist the help of other nations, we will fail in our effort to protect our citizens and secure the Internet.

The Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime would make great strides toward addressing the international problem of cybercrime by requiring ratifying nations to adopt effective criminal laws against hacking, child pornography, computer-facilitated fraud, and infringements of copyright. It would also make these laws easier to enforce by improving international law enforcement cooperation. And importantly, the Treaty would not require a single change in current U.S. law.

We would greatly appreciate your support of this treaty. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to working further with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ADVERTISING AGENCIES

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS (AFTRA)

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPOSERS, AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS (ASCAP)

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHERS, INC. (ASMP)

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS

BROADCAST MUSIC, INC. (BMI)

BUSINESS SOFTWARE ALLIANCE (BSA)

DEPARTMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA

ENTERTAINMENT SOFTWARE ASSOCIATION (ESA)

INDEPENDENT FILM & TELEVISION ALLIANCE (IFTA)

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

TIME WARNER

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER STUDIOS INC.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES CORPORATION

SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION

UNIVERSAL CITY STUDIOS, LLLP

THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

NATIONAL MUSIC PUBLISHER'S ASSOCIATION

RECORDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

EMI RECORDED MUSIC

SONY BMG MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

WARNER MUSIC GROUP

SCREEN ACTORS GUILD

SOFTWARE INFORMATION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (SIIA)

WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, EAST

WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, WEST