

 P.O. Box 31207

 Bethesda, MD 20824

4/3/17

We are pleased to report that last week, the House Judiciary Committee approved by a vote of 27-1 HR 1695, the Register of Copyright Selection and Accountability Act of 2017 introduced by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte and Ranking Member John Conyers and co-sponsored by House members.  HR 1695 would require the Register of Copyrights to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.  If enacted, would be an important step in providing much-needed autonomy to the United States Copyright Office.

ASMP is especially pleased that the leadership of both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees are working together on this legislative effort. In addition to the actions taken by Representatives Goodlatte and Conyers, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein, and Senator Patrick Leahy, have announced their support for legislation to make the Register a presidential appointment subject to Senate approval.

We stand ready to continue to work with Congress as you seek to strengthen the U.S, Copyright Office and to enable the copyright system to afford the relevant protections for all creators contributing to the U.S. position as a leader of the 21st century global digital economy.