

AFL-CIO

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

April 6, 2017

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
B351 Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC 20515

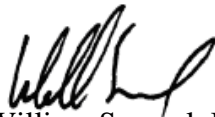
Dear Representative Conyers:

The AFL-CIO supports the bipartisan legislation H.R. 1695, the Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act of 2017, recently introduced in the House by Congressmen Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and John Conyers (D-MI). This legislation is part of the House Judiciary Committee's first copyright policy proposal to modernize and reform the United States Copyright Office (USCO).

On behalf of our more than 10 million members, the AFL-CIO strongly believes that working people in the arts and entertainment industry stand to benefit from a well-functioning, impartial Copyright Office. By finally making the Register of Copyrights a principal officer under the Constitution, nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, USCO will be able to fully exercise the various authorities granted in the U.S. Copyright Act. Furthermore, it will give the American people the opportunity to weigh in on the Register selection process every ten years through their elected officials.

The United States Copyright Office plays a crucial, if often overlooked role in our nation's thriving creative economy. The core U.S. copyright industries contribute more than \$1.2 trillion dollars to the GDP and employ more than 5.5 million workers, including many of our members whose income is dependent on strong administration and enforcement of our copyright laws.

Sincerely,



William Samuel, Director
Government Affairs Director

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

815 16th St., N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006 • 202-637-5000 • www.aflcio.org

RICHARD L. TRUMKA
PRESIDENT

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TEFERE GEBRE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT