



Computer & Communications
Industry Association

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February 5, 2003

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA), I would like to urge you to cosponsor H.R. 107, the "Digital Media Consumers' Rights Act," introduced by Congressmen Rick Boucher and John Doolittle.

CCIA is an association of computer, communications, Internet and technology companies that range from small entrepreneurial firms to some of the largest members of the industry. CCIA was founded over 30 years ago and our members include equipment manufacturers, software developers, providers of electronic commerce, networking, telecommunications and online services, resellers, systems integrators, and third-party vendors. Our member companies employ nearly one million people and generate annual revenues exceeding \$300 billion.

CCIA has long worked to preserve balance in our system of copyrights and intellectual property, and we were active in seeking modifications to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) that would recognize the rights of the public and copyright users, as well as those of copyright holders. Although we were able to achieve some changes to the DMCA to moderate some of the more extreme provisions, the DMCA has nevertheless been used to frustrate the Fair Use rights of users and impede innovation and competition. In addition, many of the content owners that pushed for enactment of the DMCA are now seeking even greater powers and rights from Congress.

We consider it appropriate to correct some of the shortcomings of the DMCA and to reaffirm the rights of the public to access copyrighted work for constitutionally and statutorily authorized purposes. We believe that H.R. 107 would do much to safeguard these vital protections and to promote a robust intellectual property system.

Again, I would urge you to cosponsor H.R. 107, and to support this and other efforts to preserve the historical balance of copyright protection, innovation, research, and First Amendment Fair Use rights.

Sincerely,

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

Ed Black
President and CEO