

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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202/463-5310

February 4, 2009

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conyers:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, commends you, as well as Congressmen Issa, Franks, Wexler, and Cohen for introducing H.R. 801, the Fair Copyright in Research Works Act.

H.R. 801 would prevent the federal government from diminishing copyright protections for works that report on federally-funded research in which a non-governmental entity that is not a party to the research-funding agreement has provided substantial funding or contributed a meaningful added value.

Copyright protection provides an important incentive for publishers to invest in the peer-review of, publication, and distribution of scientific journal articles about the latest government-funded research. This commitment of resources by the private sector aids the advancement and integrity of science and contributes to substantial gains in research and other knowledge.

Although the Chamber has previously advocated for, and continues to support, public access to the raw data resulting from federally-funded research, the Chamber believes that the government should not undermine fundamental rights in the research works that reflect meaningful value-added by publishers.

The Chamber believes that the Fair Copyright in Research Works Act would ensure that there continue to be incentives for journal publishers to invest in the peer review, editing, publishing, dissemination, and archiving of scientific journal articles, and looks forward to working with you and other members of the Committee to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

Cc: The Members of the Committee on the Judiciary