

Dear LACA Committee,

With all due respect to you all, I recognise your time is short, and the issue at hand is complex. So, this is a quick and very informal submission.

I would like to express my deep concern by the direction of the Copyright Amendment Bill 2006 bill.

I understand we have obligations under the AUSFTA. However it appears we are to be some of the first people in the world to see copyright infringement shift from a civil to a criminal act.

I am a firm believer in the moral rights of artists, authors and other developers of content to profit from their endeavour, and maintain control over the use and distribution of their material.

However my concern with the direction of this bill is that it seems to favour large foreign content brokers and their financial and legal muscle over the interests of artists, consumers and the growing class of user-innovator-creators.

Copyright is supposed to be about striking a balance, I don't believe the balance is right in this bill. I don't believe the provisions around strict enforcement are fair.

I feel powerless to change anything given the timeframes involved with first and second readings, closing of submissions and due date for the committee to report, let alone the time frame for enactment, but I hope at least you will consider shifting the balance toward the local innovation economy, and the needs of our educational, research and cultural institutions.

yours sincerely  
Donna Benjamin

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