



Mark Warawa, M.P., Langley
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment

OTTAWA, June 19, 2008

Dear constituent:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Bill C-61, An Act to amend the Copyright Act. I appreciate your interest in this important issue.

On June 12, 2008, our government introduced important amendments to the Copyright Act to bring it up-to-date with advances in technology. Our approach is in line with international standards. It should be clear, however, that it is a Made-in-Canada approach that will benefit all Canadians.

For consumers, it allows the recording of webcasts and television and radio programs to be enjoyed at different times; music to be copied on devices such as MP3 players; and the copying of books, newspapers, videos and photos into different formats. It also sets statutory damages at \$500 for individuals if they infringe copyright for private use—provided the material is not protected by a digital lock. (Currently, statutory damages could be as high as \$20,000 for a single infringement).

Canadian educators and students stand to benefit from uniquely Canadian reforms that would allow greater use of material posted on the Internet, the legal delivery of course material through the Internet, and electronic delivery of materials loaned between libraries.

For Canadian Internet Service Providers (ISPs), our bill includes a one-of-a-kind “notice and notice” regime. Compared to the “notice and takedown” approach that is used in other markets, it better addresses peer-to-peer file sharing, and clarifies the responsibilities of ISPs online.

Our Made-in-Canada approach strikes a proper balance between all stakeholders. It promotes the protection of creators’ rights, and access by students and researchers. It means consumers can enjoy everyday uses of copyright material. And it provides fairness and clarity for industries that operate in the digital environment. Its uniquely Canadian provisions recognize that we all have a stake in fair copyright laws.

Thank you again for taking the time to write me.

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Yours sincerely,

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