

December 6, 2013

Dear TPP negotiators,

In a December 7-10 meeting in Singapore you will be asked to endorse a binding obligation to grant copyright protection for 70 years after the death of an author. We urge you to reject the life + 70 year term for copyright.

There is no benefit to society of extending copyright beyond the 50 years mandated by the WTO. While some TPP countries, like the United States, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Singapore or Australia, already have life + 70 (or longer) copyright terms, there is growing recognition that such terms were a mistake, and should be shortened, or modified by requiring formalities for the extended periods.

The primary harm from the life + 70 copyright term is the loss of access to countless books, newspapers, pamphlets, photographs, films, sound recordings and other works that are “owned” but largely not commercialized, forgotten, and lost. The extended terms are also costly to consumers and performers, while benefiting persons and corporate owners that had nothing to do with the creation of the work.

Life + 70 is a mistake, and it will be an embarrassment to enshrine this mistake into the largest regional trade agreement ever negotiated.

Sincerely,

Organizations:

American Archivists (SAA)

American Library Association (ALA)

Association for Progressive Communications

Association of Research Libraries (ARL)

Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)

CIPPIC, the Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy & Public Interest Clinic, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law

Communia Association

Creative Commons

Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)

Free Software Foundation (FSF)

Gene Ethics

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)

Internet Archive

Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)

New Media Rights

Open Knowledge Foundation

Public Citizen
Public Knowledge (PK)
Young Pirates of Europe

Individuals:

Australia

Angela Daly, Swinburne Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University of Technology, Hawthorn, Victoria

Trish Hepworth, Australian Digital Alliance

Peter Jeremy, Sydney, NSW

Bob Phelps, Carlton

Lyle Taylor, Mudgeeraba, Queensland

Kimberlee Weatherall, Associate Professor, The University of Sydney

Canada

Tesh Dagne (JSD), Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC

Michael A. Geist, Professor, and Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law

Mark A. McCutcheon, Associate Professor of Literary Studies, Athabasca University, Athabasca, Alberta

Peter J. McLaren CPA, CGA, CFE, Langley, BC

Chile

Alberto Cerda, ONG Derechos Digitales

Malaysia

Jeremy Malcolm, Consumers International, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Mexico

Jorge Ringenbach, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico

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New Zealand

Kevin Prince, Christchurch, New Zealand

United States

Jane Anderson, Professor of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Brook K. Baker, Northeastern U. School of Law, Boston, MA

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Margaret Chon, Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA

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Thomas F. Cotter, University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, MN
Sean Flynn, American University Washington College of Law, Washington, DC
Eric Goldman, Santa Clara University School of Law, Santa Clara, California, USA
Wendy Gordon, Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA
William Hubbard, The University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD
Steven D. Jamar, Howard University School of Law, Washington, DC
Dennis S. Karjala, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Derek Khanna, previous fellow with Yale Law School's Information Society Project
Margot Kaminski, Information Society Project at Yale Law School, New Haven, CT
Dave Levine, Elon Law/Stanford Law Center for Internet and Society, Greensboro, NC.
Yvette Joy Liebesman, Saint Louis University School of Law, Saint Louis, MO
Lee Ann W. Lockridge, Louisiana State University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA
Michael Madison, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Pittsburgh, PA
Mark McKenna, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, IN
Ira Steven Nathenson, St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami Gardens, FL
Charles Nesson, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA
David S. Olson, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA
Laura Quilter, Copyright and Information Policy Attorney & Librarian, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Amherst, MA
Srividhya Ragavan, Professor of Law, University of Oklahoma College of Law, Norman, OK
Michael Risch, Villanova University School of Law, Villanova, PA
Guy Rub, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Columbus, OH
Pam Samuelson, Berkeley Center for Law & Technology, UC Berkeley School of Law, Berkeley, CA
Susan Sell, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, DC
Ted Sichelman, University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, CA
Rebecca Tushnet, Georgetown Law School, Washington, DC

Robin Gross, IP Justice, San Francisco, CA
Seth Johnson, New York, NY
John T. Mitchell, Interaction Law, Washington, DC
Jorge R. Roig, Charleston, SC

Switzerland

Viviana Munoz Tellez, South Centre

Poland

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The Netherlands

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