

22 September 2016

Office of International Legal Affairs
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
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National Directorate of Copyright
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To Whom It May Concern:

The signatories below are writing to you regarding the proposed updates to copyright law in Colombia that will be introduced in order to implement the U.S.-Colombia Trade Agreement. We are concerned that these changes will only further tip the balance of copyright toward the interests of rights holders, while ignoring necessary protections for the public domain, as well as for users, consumers, and the general public.

We understand that the proposed changes would include increasing copyright terms for some types of rights holders, and adopting an instrument to mirror the provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. We urge the Congress to take this opportunity to provide for crucial balances to copyright that protect the rights of users. In the fast-changing digital and online environment, the Congress should consider introducing a flexible exception to copyright that echoes the regulation of countries that have adopted “fair use” or “fair dealing” exceptions.

It has been our experience that to ensure the maximum benefits to both culture and the economy in this digital age, the scope and shape of copyright law need to be reviewed. Now is the time for the Congress to ensure that appropriate and necessary exceptions and limitations are updated in order to protect and support users, access to information, and creativity.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Creative Commons Colombia
<https://co.creativecommons.org/>

Creative Commons
<https://creativecommons.org/>

Fundación Karisma
<https://karisma.org.co/>

COMMUNIA International Association on the Public Domain
<http://www.communia-association.org/>

Centrum Cyfrowe
<http://centrumcyfrowe.pl>

Creative Commons Peru
<http://www.cc.pe>

Creative Commons Uruguay
<http://www.creativecommons.uy/>

Kennisland
www.kl.nl

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Creative Commons Indonesia
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Creative Commons Portugal
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Creative Commons UK
<http://www.creativecommons.org.uk/>

Australian Digital Alliance
<http://digital.org.au>

Creative Commons Chile
<http://creativecommons.cl>

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