

## **Labor Unions Strongly Support H.R. 1695, the “Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act**

**Endorsed by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO); the American Federation of Musicians; the Authors Guild; the Directors Guild of America (DGA); the Graphic Artists Guild; the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE); and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)**

H.R. 1695, the “Register of Copyrights Selection and Accountability Act,” *has garnered support from several major labor unions, including the AFL-CIO. Here’s what they are saying:*

**AFL-CIO**: “On behalf of our more than 10 million members, **the AFL-CIO strongly believes that working people in the arts and entertainment industry stand to benefit from a well-functioning, impartial Copyright Office.** By finally making the Register of Copyrights a principal officer under the Constitution, nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, USCO will be able to fully exercise the various authorities granted in the U.S. Copyright Act.”

**The Authors Guild**: “The Authors Guild thanks and applauds Reps. Goodlatte and Conyers for recognizing that by introducing **this bill, which paves the way to Copyright Office modernization, the Copyright Office will be able to better serve the creative sector.**”

**Directors Guild of America (DGA)**: “Ensuring that there are federal government policies that promote and preserve the value of copyright and respect creators’ rights are primary concerns of our Guild. **We believe empowering the Copyright Office to undertake a key role it has been tasked with by Congress — protecting creative works and those who create them — is essential to that end. The legislation ... is a critical step in the right direction.**”

**Graphic Artists Guild**: “The Copyright Office, headed by the Register of the Copyrights, plays a central role in helping Congress develop copyright policy. **Making the Register of Copyrights a presidential appointee subject to the advice and consent of the Senate reflects the growing importance of copyright to our economy and culture,** and treats the head of the Office like other officials with oversight over similarly significant industries.”

**International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 487**: “Let’s be clear – **the centerpiece of any strong copyright system is a strong Copyright Office.** We make films, we tell stories, and *we rely on a strong copyright system to make a living.* This matters to us.”

**Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)**: “As the nation’s largest labor union representing more than 160,000 media artists, we **strongly believe that our members stand to benefit from a well-functioning, impartial Copyright Office** ... This government department is too often overlooked, especially considering its role in our nation’s thriving creative economy.

***Strong Copyright Office Creates Jobs*** – When people think about the creative community, they usually think about red carpets and award shows. But the **vast majority of employees that earn a living in copyright-related industries work behind the scenes in middle class union jobs**. Indeed, ***the core copyright industries employ 5.5 million people, throughout all 50 states, and represent \$1.2 trillion in GDP***, almost 7 percent of the economy.

Creators depend on the copyright laws, and a strong and independent Copyright Office, to ensure that they are fairly compensated for their work. H.R. 1695 **elevates the stature of the Register of Copyrights, and strengthens the Copyright Office**, by ensuring that the Register of Copyrights—who heads the Copyright Office, and serves as an expert advisor to Congress on copyright policy—is nominated and confirmed like appointees with oversight over similarly significant industries, making the position **directly accountable to Congress**.

***For that reason, H.R. 1695 is strongly supported by millions of creative industry workers, unions, guilds and organized labor.***