



# Internet Association

April 25, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Rules and Administration  
305 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Rules and Administration  
305 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

## **Submission for the Record**

“The Nomination of Dr. Carla Hayden to be Librarian of Congress”  
April 20, 2016

### **By:**

The Internet Association  
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Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Schumer:

The Internet Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the nomination of the next Librarian of Congress, and commends you for holding a hearing to discuss the next Librarian and the future of a 21<sup>st</sup> century Library of Congress. We respectfully request that this letter be included in the record for the April 20, 2016, hearing entitled, “The Nomination of Dr. Carla Hayden to be Librarian of Congress.”

The Internet Association is the voice of the Internet economy, representing the interests of leading Internet companies and their global community of users.<sup>1</sup> It is dedicated to advancing public policy solutions to strengthen and protect Internet freedom, foster innovation and economic growth, and

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<sup>1</sup> The Internet Association’s members include Airbnb, Amazon, Coinbase, DoorDash, Dropbox, eBay, Etsy, Expedia, Facebook, FanDuel, Google, Groupon, Handy, IAC, Intuit, LinkedIn, Lyft, Monster Worldwide, Netflix, Pandora, PayPal, Pinterest, Practice Fusion, Rackspace, reddit, Salesforce.com, Snapchat, Spotify, SurveyMonkey, Ten-X, TransferWise, TripAdvisor, Turo, Twitter, Uber Technologies, Inc., Yahoo!, Yelp, Zenefits, and Zynga.



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empower users. A 21<sup>st</sup> century Library of Congress is central to the maintenance and operations of our nation's copyright laws. Copyright law has been instrumental and indispensable in the development and success of Internet platforms, which in turn have fueled growth in traditional creative industries.

The U.S. Copyright Office was centralized in the Library of Congress in 1870, creating a linked system between the nation's library and the Office responsible for sustaining our copyright system. Both serve a critical role in advancing the public interest and promoting the useful arts by providing access to works of creativity, fostering economic, social, and cultural value throughout the United States and the world. A modern Copyright Office must serve the public interest and the promotion of the useful arts through engagement with the diverse stakeholders it serves, including creators, technology industries, consumer groups, librarians, licensees, and users.

U.S. Internet companies have a deeply vested interest and dependence on the copyright system managed by the Library and the Office. The Internet Association is focused on administrative and policy reform that will bring the Library into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By harnessing the transformative power of modern technology, the Library and the Office have a historical opportunity to bring systems into the digital age, providing greater access and transparency to our nation's works and copyright system. In turn, these advancements will fuel new forms of creative expression.

The Librarian of Congress, together with the Register of Copyright, has a vital role in on the ongoing administrative and policy functions of the Library and Copyright Office and we welcome the opportunity for expertise and leadership on these critical issues. The Librarian must be able to provide library services to diverse stakeholders, and demonstrate the skills needed to ensure that the Library of Congress truly is the nation's library. The next Librarian will also be responsible for ensuring that the technology needs of the Office are met in the digital age. Enhancements to the information technology systems will achieve the highest value when coupled with administrative and policy commitments that consider the interests of all parties reliant upon a copyright system that promotes innovation and creativity. We look forward to a partnership with the next Librarian in shaping a digital future for the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress more broadly.

We urge this Committee to give robust consideration to the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century Library of Congress throughout the nomination process. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the Library of Congress to bring the nation's library into the digital age for the benefit of the American public.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Beckerman  
President & CEO