

November 6, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

As CEO of the largest independent book publishers' association in the US, the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), I write today in support of S. 1273, *The Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act of 2019* (CASE Act), legislation that would create a copyright small claims court for professional creators and small businesses.

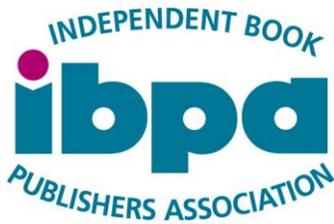
Founded in 1983 to support independent publishers nationwide, IBPA leads and serves the independent publishing community through advocacy, education, and tools for success. With over 3,100 members, IBPA is the largest publishing association in the U.S. Its vision is a world where every independent publisher has the access, knowledge, and tools needed to professionally engage in all aspects of an inclusive publishing industry.

The CASE Act is crucial to all IBPA members. Currently, federal courts have exclusive jurisdiction for copyright claims and federal litigation is expensive. This means that IBPA members, all whom operate small businesses with extremely tight margins, can't afford to file a claim when their work is infringed. In effect, the U.S. copyright system provides independent publishers with rights but no remedies.

A Copyright Small Claims Court as proposed in the CASE Act would address this problem by providing independent publishers with an easy and streamlined process that is 100% voluntary and affordable to the "little guy." It would cap damages at 10% of what a creator could get by bringing a case in federal court and includes numerous safeguards to prevent abuse and ensure fairness and due process.

If federal court continues to be the sole option, the work produced by independent publishers will remain at the mercy of infringers. Passing the CASE Act would be a huge step toward ensuring independent publishers have both the exclusive rights guaranteed to them under the law and a practical way to enforce those rights – i.e., providing both a right and a remedy.

[www.ibpa-online.org](http://www.ibpa-online.org)



As you're likely aware, the CASE Act has already received wide support across the country. It was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee by a voice vote on July 18, 2019 and a companion bill in the House, H.R. 2426, overwhelmingly passed with a vote of 410-6 on October 22, 2019.

I now urge that the bill be considered by the full Senate and that every member of Congress show their support for independent publishers by voting to pass the bill when it reaches the Senate floor.

Respectfully Submitted,

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