

TechAmerica - Internet Commerce Coalition - NetCoalition - Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)

May 4, 2009

The Honorable Mary Bono Mack  
Member of Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
104 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 1319

Dear Representative Bono Mack:

The undersigned organizations write to express our concern with the current version of H.R. 1319, the “Informed P2P User Act.” We support your concern about the security risks created by the actions of certain bad players using peer-to-peer technology. However, H.R. 1319 goes too far in attempting to address these concerns.

It is truly disconcerting that certain P2P applications have included so-called “recursive file sharing” default settings that have resulted in consumers inadvertently sharing sensitive personal information, such as tax returns, with strangers. We commit to working with you and your staff to craft an approach to tackle this problem.

As currently drafted, however, H.R. 1319 would broadly apply to many different applications and Web sites that appear to be beyond the intended scope of the bill.

For example, in Section 4, the definition of “peer-to-peer file sharing program” could be interpreted to apply to email providers, Internet access services, instant messaging applications, social networking sites, cloud computing services, space shifting technologies (e.g., Sling Box), and Web browsers.

Each of the above-referenced technologies allows a user’s computer to share and request content from other computers. In fact, most services and applications on the Internet allow for such shared use. The vast majority of applications that utilize distributed computers to deliver or assist in the delivery of content do not contain the kind of recursive file-sharing features that the legislation seems intended to address.

We appreciate your leadership in highlighting and addressing important security and privacy concerns. And, we look forward to working with you, your staff, and the Committee to address our concern in the drafting of the legislative proposal.

Sincerely,

Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)

NetCoalition

TechAmerica

Internet Commerce Coalition

Cc: The Honorable Henry Waxman  
The Honorable Joe Barton  
The Honorable Bobby Rush  
The Honorable George Radanovich  
The Honorable John Barrow  
The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
The Honorable Dan Boren  
The Honorable Ken Calvert  
The Honorable Kathy Castor  
The Honorable Ben Chandler  
The Honorable Travis Childers  
The Honorable Donna Christensen  
The Honorable William Lacy Clay  
The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver  
The Honorable Nathan Deal  
The Honorable Diana DeGette  
The Honorable Joe Donnelly  
The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
The Honorable Charles Gonzalez  
The Honorable Bart Gordon  
The Honorable Alan Grayson  
The Honorable Parker Griffith  
The Honorable Baron Hill  
The Honorable Darrell Issa  
The Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr.  
The Honorable Steve Kagen  
The Honorable Carolyn Maloney  
The Honorable Jim Matheson  
The Honorable Betty McCollum  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
The Honorable Ed Perlmutter  
The Honorable John Sarbanes  
The Honorable David Scott  
The Honorable Zachary Space  
The Honorable Bart Stupak  
The Honorable Betty Sutton  
The Honorable John Tanner  
The Honorable Anthony Weiner