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One Hundred Eighteenth  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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October 25, 2024

Shira Perlmutter  
Register of Copyrights and Director  
U.S. Copyright Office  
101 Independence Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20559

Dear Register Perlmutter,

As Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration (“the Committee”), we write today to request an update on the delay in the release of the U.S. Copyright Office's reports on artificial intelligence (“AI”), which were initially targeted for publication by the end of Fiscal Year 2024. As the committee with statutory oversight authority over the Library of Congress (“LOC”) and, by extension, the U.S. Copyright Office<sup>1</sup>, we are tasked with ensuring that the office fulfills its obligations to Congress and the public in a timely and transparent manner.

The Copyright Office has previously indicated that its review of AI's impact on copyright law was a matter of priority.<sup>2</sup> In your testimony before Congress, you committed to providing timely reports that would address how emerging AI technologies intersect with the current copyright framework, especially in relation to generative AI and creative works.<sup>3</sup> Your stated goal was to publish these reports by the close of FY 2024.<sup>4</sup> However, during the Committee's recent oversight hearing, you predicted the second report would be released before the end of summer and the third report would be published in the fall.<sup>5</sup> As of this writing, neither report has been published and we have received no formal status update.

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<sup>1</sup> The Committee's authority to oversee the Library of Congress and the U.S. Copyright Office is derived from both U.S. statutory law (2 U.S.C. § 136) and the rules governing the jurisdiction of House committees (Rule X, Clause 4).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Shira Perlmutter, Reg. of Copyrights, to Sen. Chris Coons, Chair, and Sen. Thom Tillis, Ranking Member, Subcomm. on Intell. Prop. Of the S. Comm. on the Judiciary (February 23, 2024), <https://www.copyright.gov/laws/hearings/USCO-Letter-on-AI-and-Copyright-Initiative-Update-Feb-23-2024.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Shira Perlmutter, *The U.S. Copyright Office: Customers, Communities, and Modernization Efforts*, Before the H. Comm. on House Admin., 118th Cong. (2024). <https://cha.house.gov/hearings?ID=EF9C2550-4085-453E-9EBE-75BB69E0DC73>.

<sup>4</sup> “Later sections will turn to the legal implications of training AI models on copyrighted works as well as the allocation of potential liability for AI-generated outputs that may infringe. Those sections will be published as they are completed, with a goal of finalizing the entire report **by the end of the fiscal year.**” Perlmutter, *supra* note 2.

<sup>5</sup> “...the second section of the report will talk about the issue of copyrightability of the output created using generative AI and that study we expect to issue **by the end of the summer.** And then we will turn to the infringement-related questions, including whether the ingestion of copyrighted works for purposes of training the AI

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The importance of these reports cannot be overstated. The rapid evolution of AI technology, particularly in the fields of creative arts, literature, and media production, is raising unprecedented questions about copyright protections. Creators, technologists, and stakeholders from across the spectrum are relying on clear, authoritative guidance from your office to navigate this evolving landscape and strike an appropriate balance between innovation and the rights of creators. While we appreciate the novel nature of the subject matter, the absence of these reports creates uncertainty for industries that are already grappling with AI-related challenges and hinders lawmakers' ability to craft effective policy.

We urge you to expedite the completion and release of these reports. In the interim, we request that you provide a progress update to committee staff within one week of receipt of this letter. A clear and comprehensive analysis from the Copyright Office is essential for Congress, creators, and businesses as we work to ensure that our copyright laws—and the administration thereof—keep pace with rapidly developing AI technologies.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your timely response and the publication of these critical reports.

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil  
Chairman  
Committee on House Administration



Joseph D. Morelle  
Ranking Member  
Committee on House Administration

BGS/jb/jcs

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constitutes fair use... so that, those last sections of the report **we expect to be out in the fall.**" Perlmutter, *supra* note 3.