Chairman Lamar Smith  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member John Conyers  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), H.R. 3261

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Conyers,

We are a collection of companies, nonprofits, and individuals that create, distribute, or otherwise support educational content and services. Together we reach and serve tens of millions of students and teachers worldwide. We would like to express our concern about the Stop Online Piracy Act (“SOPA”), as well as the PROTECT IP Act in the Senate.

Today, there are myriad sites that encourage lawful distribution, remixing and redistribution of educational content (e.g. Curriki, Connexions, P2PU, YouTube, CK12). These services are democratizing access to educational content.

Of course, sometimes they are misused. Fortunately, today the Digital Millennium Copyright Act safe harbors craft a careful balance -- a content owner would issue a DMCA takedown to remove the content, but otherwise the platform is not held liable for alleged copyright infringement.

These bills would undermine this framework and chill the creation of educational content. Sites that host or use user-generated content could be required to monitor their site for infringing material, and could potentially have their domain name blocked by the government if content owners thought that infringement was occurring on that site. This represents an entirely new legal power given to content owners to control the flow of content online and to shape the very foundation of the Internet. Indeed, it could lead to entire sites becoming unavailable due to the behavior of a tiny minority of confused or malicious users.

Online services providing innovative educational content or services require the legal certainty and protections defined in the DMCA. The proposed legislation would undermine legal certainty and in turn chill the creation of innovative learning opportunities.

We appreciate the intent of these bills, but this isn’t the right way to stop mass infringement. We urge Congress to reject this legislation and instead pursue more narrowly tailored approaches in collaboration with our community.

Respectfully,

Adee Horn, Lowell High School, SFUSD  
Aditya Kamdar, Yale University  
Ahrash Bissell, Monterey Institute for Technology and Education  
Amanda Wortman, Digital Media and Learning Hub, UC Irvine  
Andy Williams, Edmonds Community College  
Betty Hurley-Dasgupta, SUNY Empire State College  
Boris Mindzak  
Brewster Kahle, Internet Archive  
Cable Green, Creative Commons  
Carolina Rossini, OER Brazil Project  
Cecilia d'Oliveira, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Kevin A. Wortman, California State University, Fullerton
Kim Jones, Curriki
Lila Bailey, Samuelson Law, Technology and Public Policy Clinic, Berkeley Law School
Lindsey Weeramuni, MIT OpenCourseWare
Lisa McLaughlin, Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME)
Lydia Loren, Lewis & Clark Law School
M Hilleson, Nishimachi International School
Maile Hadley, OSPI - Digital Learning
Maria Elena Fisher y Salazar, SEV
Maria L Jimenez, University of Puerto Rico
Mark Carter, District School Board of Niagara
Marty Stevens
Mary Lou Forward, OpenCourseWare Consortium
Matt Senate, Wikipedia
Matthew M. Holman, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Micah Salkind, Brown University
Michael Leddy, Eastern Illinois University
Naheed Muneer, Ahmedbawany Academy
Natalie Ingram, University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus
Nate Angell, rSmart
Nick Shockey, R2RC
Noah Thorp, Rixiform Inc
Parker Phinney, Students for Free Culture
Patrick McDermott
Perry Cavarzan, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic DSB
Philipp Schmidt, Peer 2 Peer University
Rafael Texidor Torres, University of Puerto Rico
Ramesh Sharma, Indira Gandhi National Open University, India
Richard Karnesky, UC Berkeley
Richard Mure Exelby, Danielsen Videregåande Skole
Ritu Tandon, MIT OpenCourseWare
Robert Connolly, University of Memphis
Robin Donaldson, Florida Distance Learning Consortium
Ronald Van Tienhoven, Technical University Eindhoven
Sam Joseph, Hawaii Pacific University
Scott Friedland, Palo Alto High School
Stephen Carson, MIT OpenCourseWare
Tara Useller
Timothy Vollmer, Creative Commons
Tisha Turk, University of Minnesota, Morris
Yen-Ling Chang, Citizen Solidarity First Step