Community Letter on S. 487, the Technology, Education, and Copyright Harmonization Act of 2001

May 17, 2001

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write on behalf of the Association of American Universities, the American Council on Education, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and the American Association of Community Colleges to urge your support for S. 487, the Technology, Education and Copyright Harmonization Act of 2001, which will be marked up by the Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill, based on recommendations of a carefully prepared report by the U.S. Copyright Office, updates copyright law to enable educators to provide educational content online that is comparable to that provided in a traditional classroom. The bill includes important safeguards governing the use of copyrighted material designed to assure that such material is used for authorized educational purposes only.

Online distance education provides an extraordinary means to expand educational opportunity in this country, enriching educational content for traditional and nontraditional students alike, reaching students in their dorms and in rural locations, providing lifelong learning for adults at home, at times selected by all students to meet their needs.

Because of the importance of online distance education to the development of this nation's human resources, we strongly support the provisions of this bill that will assist distance education to achieve its enormous potential. We ask for your support for S. 487 at the Judiciary Committee markup.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Nils Hasselmo
President
Association of American Universities

http://www.aau.edu/intellect/S487Ltr5.17.01.html

4/10/2002