December 6, 2013

Dear TPP negotiators,

In a December 7-10 meeting in Singapore you will be asked to endorse a binding obligation to grant copyright protection for 70 years after the death of an author. We urge you to reject the life + 70 year term for copyright.

There is no benefit to society of extending copyright beyond the 50 years mandated by the WTO. While some TPP countries, like the United States, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Singapore or Australia, already have life + 70 (or longer) copyright terms, there is growing recognition that such terms were a mistake, and should be shortened, or modified by requiring formalities for the extended periods.

The primary harm from the life + 70 copyright term is the loss of access to countless books, newspapers, pamphlets, photographs, films, sound recordings and other works that are “owned” but largely not commercialized, forgotten, and lost. The extended terms are also costly to consumers and performers, while benefiting persons and corporate owners that had nothing to do with the creation of the work.

Life + 70 is a mistake, and it will be an embarrassment to enshrine this mistake into the largest regional trade agreement ever negotiated.

Sincerely,

Organizations:
American Archivists (SAA)
American Library Association (ALA)
Association for Progressive Communications
Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)
CIPPIC, the Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy & Public Interest Clinic, University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law
Communia Association
Creative Commons
Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)
Free Software Foundation (FSF)
Gene Ethics
International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)
Internet Archive
Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)
New Media Rights
Open Knowledge Foundation
Public Citizen
Public Knowledge (PK)
Young Pirates of Europe

**Individuals:**

**Australia**
Angela Daly, Swinburne Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University of Technology, Hawthorn, Victoria
Trish Hepworth, Australian Digital Alliance
Peter Jeremy, Sydney, NSW
Bob Phelps, Carlton
Lyle Taylor, Mudgeeraba, Queensland
Kimberlee Weatherall, Associate Professor, The University of Sydney

**Canada**
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**Chile**
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**Malaysia**
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**Mexico**
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Sean Flynn, American University Washington College of Law, Washington, DC
Eric Goldman, Santa Clara University School of Law, Santa Clara, California, USA
Wendy Gordon, Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA
William Hubbard, The University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD
Steven D. Jamar, Howard University School of Law, Washington, DC
Dennis S. Karjala, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Derek Khanna, previous fellow with Yale Law School's Information Society Project
Margot Kaminski, Information Society Project at Yale Law School, New Haven, CT
Dave Levine, Elon Law/Stanford Law Center for Internet and Society, Greensboro, NC.
Yvette Joy Liebesman, Saint Louis University School of Law, Saint Louis, MO
Lee Ann W. Lockridge, Louisiana State University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA
Michael Madison, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Pittsburgh, PA
Mark McKenna, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, IN
Ira Steven Nathenson, St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami Gardens, FL
Charles Nesson, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA
David S. Olson, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA
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Ted Sichelman, University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, CA
Rebecca Tushnet, Georgetown Law School, Washington, DC

Robin Gross, IP Justice, San Francisco, CA
Seth Johnson, New York, NY
John T. Mitchell, Interaction Law, Washington, DC
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