



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Legislative
and Intergovernmental Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20230

February 12, 2016

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

The Administration is pleased to forward for your consideration the enclosed draft legislation, entitled the "Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act of 2016." This draft bill proposes limited changes to the Copyright Act to implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, done at Marrakesh, Morocco, on June 27, 2013 (Marrakesh Treaty). The Marrakesh Treaty was negotiated and concluded under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organization to facilitate access to printed works for persons with print disabilities. The United States signed the treaty on October 2, 2013.

The bill implements provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty that aim to expand the availability of print materials in accessible formats such as braille, large print, and specialized digital audio files, for the use of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. A limited set of changes is proposed to section 121 of the Copyright Act. The proposed bill broadens the scope of works currently covered by section 121 and elaborates on the section's definition of "blind or other persons with disabilities." It also specifies that accessible format copies may be exported for the exclusive use of such eligible persons in other countries that are parties to the treaty, and for U.S. citizens or domiciliaries located abroad.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the transmittal of this legislative proposal to the Congress and that its enactment would be in accord with the program of the President. If you have any further questions, please contact me at 202-482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Steve Haro", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Steve Haro

Enclosures