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March 8, 2003

Rep. Charles Rangel  
Room 2354 RHOB-Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3215

Dear Representative Rangel,

As one of your constituents, I write you today to urge you to support H.R. 1066, the Benefit Authors without Limiting Advancement or Net Consumer Expectations (BALANCE) Act of 2003, proposed by Representative Zoe Lofgren of California.

Historically, copyright legislation has served to balance the interests of authors and copyright holders against those of users and consumers of their works. However, unfortunately, recent legislation has shifted that balance away from consumers, giving copyright holders a level of control over their work which fails to serve the public interest. The BALANCE act would work to remedy this discrepancy.

The BALANCE act is supported by a number of organizations and academics with related interests, including the American Library Association and the Consumer Electronics Association.

I urge you to get in touch with Congresswoman Lofgren's office for more information about this bill, and to support the bill however you are able. I further await hearing your response on this issue.

Sincerely,

Michael Castleman