

# Tech Industry Testifies Before Congress on Copyright Reform

By: Sheldon Mak & Anderson

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Businesses that rely on the fair use doctrine and open source technology recently testified before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet. The hearing featured testimony from representatives of the crowdfunding, cloud computing and software industry.

The hearing was part of Congress's [broad review of U.S. copyright laws](#) with the goal of updating the country's copyright protection scheme. In prior testimony last month, content creators from the music and film industries argued for stronger protection to combat infringement in the digital age, particularly online piracy.

In the latest hearing, the tech companies called on Congress to protect their business models as part of any future copyright reform. They stressed that innovation and intellectual property protection do not always have to go hand in hand. For instance, several of the executives stressed that their business models rely on fair use.

Danae Ringelmann, co-founder and chief customer officer of crowdfunding site Indiegogo, further suggested a new approach to copyright protection is needed in a digital world where everything can be easily copied and distributed. "Rather than try to fight it, because it's like water rolling down a hill, try to embrace it," Ringelmann said.

Source: [Corporate Counsel](#)

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