

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Joe Courtney today released the following statement urging Congress to scrap the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), and begin work on a new approach to addressing online piracy:

“Online piracy is a serious problem that must be addressed, but doing so should not muzzle free speech, stifle innovation or harm cybersecurity. SOPA as it exists today fails that standard, and it should be scrapped entirely. An axe instead of a scalpel, this bill would unacceptably and fundamentally change the architecture of the internet. The Judiciary Committee should start from scratch and craft a solution that ensures due process from a public entity that resolves infringement issues.

“Over the weekend, the White House urged content creators and internet platform providers to work together on voluntary measures that would reduce online piracy. That is a good start, but I encourage them to include consumers in the discussion as well. Over the past several weeks I have heard from thousands of constituents who are deeply concerned about the bill's approach and the speed at which this process is moving forward. Grassroots activists across the country voiced serious concern with SOPA. Ensuring that their voices are heard from square one will ensure that a viable approach to addressing online piracy emerges in the end.”

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