



CPR Principles: Copyright Policy

Copyright is a type of intellectual property, a form of property alongside physical and personal property. Thus, it is something of importance and concern to conservatives. Copyright policy is among a defined set of issue priorities on which the coalition Conservatives for Property Rights (CPR) focuses. The following principles outline the property rights principles CPR applies in assessing the merits of policy matters relating to copyright.

- Creative works such as book manuscripts, essays, theatrical scripts, motion picture productions, musical scores, sound recordings, graphic art, and choreographic works represent the creative product of a person's mind. Thus, such works constitute a form of private property. These works, as property, inherently carry certain inherent ownership rights. Copyright policies should accord with the recognition of private property interests in written and artistic works.
- The U.S. Constitution provides for the securing of the exclusive right of authors and creators to their works for a period of time. The securing of these private property rights promotes progress of the arts and sciences, thus combining private interest with public benefit, as the Founding Fathers envisioned. Thus, copyright policies should protect the private property right in creative works in order to incentivize such human creativity and the benefits such creations afford to society.
- Copyright, by securing the exclusive property rights of creators, directly fosters economic growth and job creation, thus directly contributing to expanding the American economy. These outcomes represent the economic benefits the nation derives from secure property rights in one's creative work. Copyright policies should preserve and protect the private property interests of creators, which enables them to exercise their rights in a manner that facilitates economic activity, such as through licenses, contracts, and other arrangements.
- Copyright must be meaningfully enforceable in order to exercise the defense of property rights in creative works. Those who steal, or otherwise defraud or shortcircuit due remuneration from one's copyright-protected works must be held accountable for their actions. This holds for individuals, businesses, criminal enterprises, and foreign governments or their agents. Copyright policies must provide sufficient penalties to deter IP theft and associated crimes; strong, workable enforcement remedies that effectively counter infringers and traffickers; and accountability measures that protect legitimate American producers and consumers from being victimized by illegitimate actors whose conduct destroys jobs, harms the public and creators, and weakens our economy.