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August 25, 2009

The Honorable Mary Bono-Mack  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable John Barrow  
United States House of Representatives

*Via Facsimile*

Dear Representatives Bono-Mack and Barrow:

We are writing to express our appreciation for the introduction of H.R. 1319, the "Informed P2P User Act." This bill is important legislation that will provide our citizens with the protections they deserve on the Internet.

As protectors of the citizens of our states, we have become increasingly concerned by the national news stories regarding personal and classified information that is inadvertently released by users of online peer-to-peer (p2p) services. These stories include the unintentional release of personal finances and 1040 tax forms, resumes, addresses and social security numbers, medical records, police records, confidential government reports and information, and even classified state secrets. With the increasing challenges we have regarding our personal – and our nation's – security, we must take whatever precautions we can to address the inadvertent sharing of such proprietary information.

Undeniably, many distributors of these p2p programs choose to make such sharing unclear to the end user; after all, the more users that are sharing, the larger the audience for advertisers, and the more revenue for p2p services. Thus, inadvertent sharing is largely caused by the automatic or confusing nature of the sharing feature within p2p programs – a default sharing setting activated by distributors of these programs at the expense of consumers.

The obvious solution, therefore, is to ensure that users are appropriately informed and choose to personally activate the sharing feature of these programs. H.R. 1319 does just that. By requiring the affirmative consent of computer users, H.R. 1319 allows consumers to decide how and when their personal files are distributed to others. This small, yet important step goes a long way toward ensuring our citizens the privacy, security, and safety they need without jeopardizing any legitimate purpose that may be found in p2p programs.

Again, we thank you for your attention to this serious problem, and for the sensible solutions you have proposed in H.R. 1319.

Sincerely,



Jon Bruning  
Attorney General of Nebraska



Patrick C. Lynch  
Attorney General of Rhode Island



Mark Shurtleff  
Attorney General of Utah



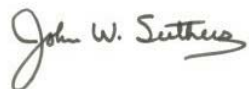
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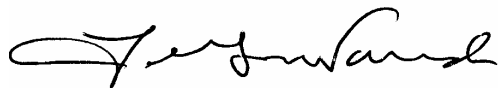
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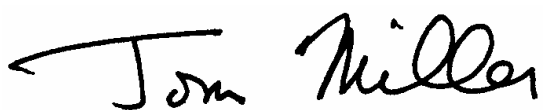
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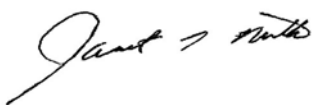
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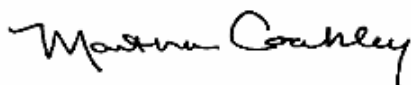
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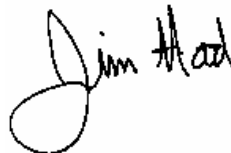
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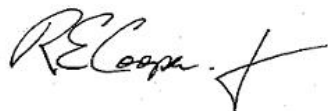
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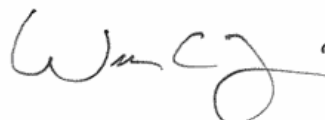
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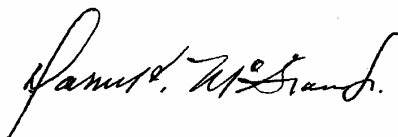
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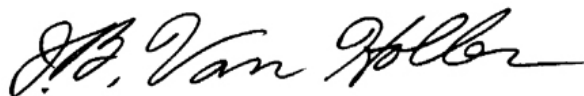
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