

From: Faye Boer

Sent: March 7, 2012 5:16 PM

To: Rajotte, James - M.P.

Cc: Paradis, Christian - Député; Moore, James - M.P.; Moore, James - M.P.; Thibeault, Glenn - M.P.; Angus, Charlie - M.P.; Armstrong, Scott - M.P.; Benskin, Tyrone - M.P.; Braid, Peter - M.P.; Calandra, Paul - M.P.; Cash, Andrew - M.P.; Del Mastro, Dean - M.P.; Lake, Mike - M.P.; McColeman, Phil - M.P.; Moore, Rob - M.P.; Nantel, Pierre - Député; Regan, Geoff - M.P.; ~Legislative Committee Bill C-11/Comité législatif loi C-11

Subject: Bill C-11

Dear Mr. Rajotte:

I am an Alberta book publisher living in your riding of Edmonton-Southwest. I have a vested interest in seeing that Bill C-11 is not passed as it now stands. I thought I would get that out of the way right at the beginning, and being as you are the MP from my riding and you are elected to ensure that the interests of your constituents are protected, I thought I would write a note to let you know what would happen if this bill is passed as is.

I'm almost certain that as an educated person, you have a wide variety of books both in your home and in your office. I'm also certain that if you have children, you have encouraged them to learn to read using printed books. Although I believe that modernization of the Copyright Act is absolutely crucial, I wanted to let you know that Bill C-11 will put the publishing of all books in jeopardy regardless of the format, printed or ebook.

With the more than 30 exceptions affecting rightsholders, Bill C-11 cuts a wide swath through the publishing community at large and puts everyone involved at risk. If the exceptions included in Bill C-11 are allowed to go forward, publishers will be shutting their doors in droves. And why should they not? Writers will be find themselves left out in the cold to their own devices with no one to publish their works. Why should these creators stay in the business of creating content when all around them including the Conservative government are saying that their work is not valued?

Why should users not pay for content? Does it cost any less to produce an ebook than it does a printed book? Actually, no. The cost of making a printed book is minor compared to the money and resources needed to produce ebooks in all the various proprietary formats in order to make the book available. In fact, it is much more complicated and costly to publish an ebook, particularly for small publisher such as myself who has little or no staff and few resources to call upon. With the wide variety of ebook formats required, our situation is far worse than the VHS vs Beta-max issue - 10 times worse.

And how is it that the government can choose to take away the income from so many at a time when we are all strapped economically. It's not as if Canadian publishers and creators are making money by publishing and writing. Every dollar that a publisher makes is ploughed back into new projects, i.e. new books. Authors are already not paid what their material is worth because of the dwindling sales of Canadian books due to US publishers and distributors dumping their

overstocked books across the border at a fraction of the price that Canadian publishers must charge just to get by.

Do you earn a paycheque, Mr. Rajotte? Why should creators not be allowed to earn their pay in a fair and equitable manner? Publishers and creators work hard every single day for very little, and many of these people have to find at least one other job to fund what they really love because their work is not valued as it should be. Why is the Conservative government bent on taking away what small income creators and publishers already make from the production of Canadian books?

Along with other publishers and creators, I am not asking for anything new or anything more than I have now. But I am asking you to support the amendments to Bill C-11 put forward so that our longstanding intellectual property rights will be protected and that I can continue to contribute to the cultural, economic and social fabric of our country.

I am deeply concerned about the possibility of the passing of this bill unchanged, and I request that you respond to my questions:

1. Have you and your colleagues in the Conservative government considered and/or calculated the negative impact of Bill c-11 as currently written on writers, publishers and Canadians access to well-written content?

2. If the Conservative government has no intention of harming the market for creators and publishers, then will you support amendments to the bill that make harm to the market the primary consideration in determining whether a use will be deemed "fair dealing"?

I await your reply and am willing to speak with you further about the matter should you have any questions or concerns. I hope you will take my concerns and the concerns of the cultural sector to heart when speaking about and voting on this bill. If you vote Yea as you have for previous readings, please know that you will be allowing harm to come to businesses in your own community.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Faye

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If you're not annoying someone, you're not really alive.
—Margaret Atwood

A room without books is like a body without soul.

—Cicero

Eighty percent of success is showing up
—Woody Allen

