Michael L. Marlin, Director/Manager

California Braille and Talking Book Library

Sacramento, CA

o Copyrighted Works for Visually Impaired Persons and Draft Treaty Proposal: Reply Comments due Dec. 5 @ 12:00 AM:

First of all, I am speaking of my own accord as a blind individual and librarian serving the blind, and do not purport to represent the California State Library or the State of California Executive Office of the Governor.

I have read all the initial comments and appreciate the time and acumen exerted by all parties. I fundamentally disagree with National Public Radio, Microsoft Corporation, Recording Industry Association of America, Software Industry representatives, and any others who claim that legislated copyright exception for the blind should be superceded by voluntary initiative of content producers and distributors. History has shown that the market does not serve the disenfranchised when left to its own devices, and that is readily apparent in the U.S. and abroad. Therefore, I submit that an international copyright exception is the only fair and equitable manner in which the blind populations of the countries party to WIPO will be assured access to published works.

I urge the U.S. Delegation to sign on to the proposed International Copyright treaty Exception. It is the just and humane path to take, and it will be proven to follow both the letter and spirit of international law as well as prove advantageous to content producers, distributors, and blind consumers.