

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
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November 12, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Reid:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, opposes S. 779, the "Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2015," and urges you not to bring it before the Senate for consideration.

S. 779 would require that final manuscripts of peer-reviewed, private-sector journal articles that report on federally-funded research be made freely available no later than twelve months after their publication. Although the Chamber has long advocated for, and continues to support, public access to the raw data resulting from federally-funded research, the Chamber believes that the government should not undermine the fundamental intellectual property rights for research works that reflect meaningful value added by publishers.

Copyright protection provides an important incentive for publishers to invest in the peer review, publication, and distribution of scientific journal articles about the latest government-funded research. This commitment of resources by the private sector aids in the advancement and integrity of science and contributes to substantial gains in research and other knowledge. This bill would undermine incentives for journal publishers to invest in the peer review, editing, publishing, dissemination, and archiving of scientific journal articles. As a consequence, this bill would diminish the high quality of scientific and other scholarly research in the United States, as well as endangering an estimated 40,000 American jobs within the publishing industry.

The Chamber looks forward to working with you and other Senators to ensure that the public is provided access to the results of federally-funded research in a manner that also respects the rights of the publishing community.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

cc: Members of the United States Senate