



The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
US House of Representatives  
2426 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-2214

23 September 2008

Dear Chairman Conyers,

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) would like to express our appreciation to you and the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property for bringing attention to the very important issue of protecting intellectual property rights in publicly funded research. IEEE has been a leader in recent ongoing public discussions regarding open access publishing models, and we have adopted overarching and comprehensive principles to help guide publishers and authors of scholarly and professional publications when providing access to government-sponsored research. Please find enclosed a copy of IEEE's *Principles of Scholarly Publishing*.

In a September 11th hearing on H.R. 6845, the *Fair Copyright in Research Works Act*, Dr. Martin Frank discussed publishing alternatives providing access to government-funded research in a way that does not conflict with copyright principles. IEEE takes a similar approach. Also attached is a copy of a letter IEEE sent to NIH several months ago laying out these alternatives. IEEE believes the copyright and intellectual property rights of authors and publishers must be protected in any publishing activity, including those involving government-mandated policies on access to government-sponsored research. We encourage further exploration of this issue to ensure protection of intellectual property rights for authors and publishers, while fulfilling government's obligation to disseminate and provide affordable and reliable access to information for the benefit of the public.

IEEE, the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology, represents more than 375,000 members in more than 160 countries. IEEE-USA, an organizational unit of the IEEE located in Washington, D.C., promotes the careers and public policy interests of more than 215,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. If we can be of further assistance on this issue, please contact Erica Wissolik in our Washington office at (202) 530-8347, or email [e.wissolik@ieee.org](mailto:e.wissolik@ieee.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Baillieul".

Dr. John Baillieul  
Vice President, IEEE Publication  
Services and Products

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell J. Lefevre".

Dr. Russell Lefevre  
President, IEEE-USA