

**Declaration of Michael Livermore in Support of Public.Resource.Org**

I, Michael Livermore, declare as follows:

1. I am the Edward F. Howrey Professor of Law at the University of Virginia School of Law. I also serve as the Director of the Program in Law, Communities and the Environment (PLACE). I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration and know them to be true and correct. I could competently testify to them if called as a witness. The views contained in this declaration are my own and do not necessarily represent the viewpoints of the University of Virginia School of Law or any of its affiliates.
2. Part of my research involves the computational analysis of law. This means that I use the tools of natural language processing and computational text analysis to use the law itself as a set of data to examine empirical questions concerning the law and legal institutions. I also work from time to time with other computational law scholars throughout the world on projects of this nature.
3. Conducting this type of research can be a cumbersome process. This is in part because many sources of legal information are not widely available. For example, there is no easily accessible way to access official state codes or state court opinions. Without access to this material, researchers like me are unable to accomplish this meaningful research.
4. It is my belief that if this data were widely accessible, then we would be able to perform helpful analyses concerning developments in the law or biases that unfairly impact certain populations. In order to do these analyses, I would need ready access to state statutes, trial court proceedings, and legislative history. Currently, however, we do not have access to these types of data.
5. Commercial providers of legal data, such as Lexis and West, do not provide ready access to the official versions of state codes and regulations. Fees and terms of use restrictions make it impossible for scholars to use their data for many projects.

6. To the extent that commercial providers of legal data such as Lexis and West add copyright assertions to the edicts of government that they provide access to, the threat of litigation alone would be enough to dissuade me from copying or otherwise distributing this material. I believe that the threat of potential litigation similarly dissuades others from freely accessing or distributing these materials.

7. Barriers to accessing these materials also impact the ability of other companies to provide access to this information. The lack of broad access to this public information undermines competition in the legal research services market, and ultimately impedes innovative research from occurring.

I declare that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 8/11/2021 in Charlottesville, VA

DocuSigned by:  
/s/ Michael Livermore  
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MICHAEL LIVERMORE