

To the United States Government:

The People of the United States are required, and in fact should make every good faith effort to follow the rules of the land. These rules are created in numerous different ways including:

1- Explicit restrictions authored & passed by Congress, signed into law by the President, and then enforced using federal executive agencies. Example: Congress could pass a bill making it illegal to wear the color green, and sent to the President to be signed into law, after which Americans would no longer be legally allowed to wear the color green [regardless which agency is enforcing it].

2- Regulations authored by government agencies after having been given the power to do so by the legal process. Example: Congress could pass a bill creating the Federal Fashion Agency, with the bill stating explicitly that the "FFA" could restrict which colors the People can display on their clothing. The newly created agency could then create a "rule" that the color green can no longer be worn by the People without Congress ever explicitly mentioning the color green at any time in history.

But the People are also required to follow texts [such as codified practices, or trade standards] that were written by 3rd parties. Unlike the other rules of the land, these texts since they were not written by the government are very hard to find in person and are often impossible to find online without paying for access. Since you cannot simply walk into the nearest library and read these texts in a full format, and you cannot simply use a search engine to find their full content online the People are left unable to see the rules they are required to follow! This is a major problem and one that needs to be resolved immediately.

The affordability of unabridged full access to this 3rd party authored content is irrelevant. While many of these 3rd party texts are extremely expensive to purchase in physical format, or hidden behind pay-walls on internet websites where costly subscriptions are required for access: the problem is that there is no free & easy alternative for the People to choose from. In essence what this practice is doing is forcing the People to make payment to some 3rd party outside the government in order to have the privilege of following the law!

This can be rectified by putting this content on government servers online so anyone can access them for free using the internet, and by also putting physical print-form versions of this content in our libraries & relevant government facilities so that the People need not pay for access [They would still be free to purchase copies directly from the 3rd parties who created them]. This is precisely what we already do for "rules" written by government bodies. Even most local townships currently have their local rules & ordinances on their websites for the whole world to see for free as they need.

While this might be perceived as harmful to the intellectual property rights of these 3rd parties who author these texts, that is an unfortunate side effect of using the law to require adherence to a 3rd party's text. Thankfully there are also benefits to 3rd parties who author these texts in spite of this aforementioned drawback: It gives them a high level of prestige as an authority on the subjects in question and thereby guarantees that People will want to be involved in their

authorship processes by joining their association [if applicable], or going to their organization's functions [i.e. educational courses, conferences, lectures, and so on]. There is plenty of financial incentive there, but in cases where there is not the government can hand out grants to ease the process along for the good of the country. We in fact, already do this.

I hope my comments are taken into serious consideration,

Sarah Emily Gath,
Citizen of the United States.