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Public Works for a Better Government

September 23, 2014

Congressman Hank Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

I am writing to you about the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the laws of Georgia which are published by the Georgia Code Revision Commission on behalf of the state and the people as the only definitive and authoritative statement of the law. For over a year, we have purchased and **posted the Official Code** so that citizens may inform themselves of their rights and obligations.

Unfortunately, this activity has led to a **series of takedown notices** from Senator Joshua McKoon, the Chairman of the Georgia Code Revision Commission. Numerous requests to appear before the Commission and discuss this important issue have been rebuffed. We are unable to seek declaratory relief and as a result, the status of our efforts lies under a cloud of unfounded legal threats. The result is that the citizens of Georgia do not know if it is safe to read and use the Official Code we have posted.

When I testified before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives earlier this year on the subject of **"edicts of government,"** I was struck by **your comments** about how important access to the law was in your legal practice, but also more broadly about how this principle goes to the core of the ideals of access to justice.

This topic seems an important one for the people of Georgia to be aware of, and I was wondering if perhaps we might be able to organize a panel discussion in Georgia, perhaps at a location such as the Atlanta University Center?

When I think of the importance of access to the law, and the importance of the rule of law, this makes me think of the long struggle for civil rights. When citizens are asked to pay a poll tax to vote, or are prohibited from enrolling in public schools, or are not allowed to purchase property due to restrictive covenants, these are examples where the rule of law has been broken. I can no think of no more eloquent spokesman on these topics than Congressman John Lewis, and if he might have the time and inclination to join us at such an event, I would of course be thrilled and honored.

I would appreciate your consideration of this request and hope we can work together to inform the people of Georgia about their Official Code.

Respectfully yours,

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