

March 28, 2012

Senator Morgan Carroll  
Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
200 E. Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203

Senator Lucia Guzman  
Vice Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
200 E. Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chair Carroll and Vice Chair Guzman:

I write in support of HB 1209, the *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act*. I strongly urge the Judiciary Committee to approve the *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act* (UELMA), which will provide Colorado with a technology-neutral, outcomes-based approach to ensuring that online state legal material deemed official will be preserved and made permanently available to the public in unaltered form. We are very pleased that the bill passed the House Judiciary and Appropriations Committees.

UELMA addresses the urgent problem, identified in the American Association of Law Libraries' 2007 *State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources*, that more and more states are eliminating their print legal resources in favor of online-only, without assuring trustworthiness and reliability. UELMA will ensure that online legal material is guaranteed the same level of trustworthiness traditionally provided by print publication.

Importantly, HB 1209 covers a range of key materials including the Constitution, the Session Laws, the Colorado Revised Statutes, and Code of Colorado Regulations. The official version of the Code of Colorado Regulations is currently the online version, but it is not authenticated. UELMA will ensure that anyone -- whether a judge, legislator, lawyer or member of the public -- will be able to verify the trustworthiness of the state legal material available to them online. .

UELMA is supported by the Uniform Law Commission (ULC), the American Bar Association and the American Association of Law Libraries. Many other stakeholders -- including the U.S. Government Printing Office, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Society of American Archivists, the National Center for State Courts, and the Association of Reporters of Judicial Decisions -- were observers to the ULC drafting committee.

I strongly urge you to support HB 1209, the *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act*. By adopting UELMA, Colorado will establish itself as a leader among states understanding that official, electronic legal material must be authenticated, preserved and made permanently available to the public. Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Susan Nevelow Mart  
Associate Professor and Director of the Law Library  
University of Colorado Law School  
William.A. Wise Law Library  
Boulder, CO 80309