The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair of the Assembly Rules Committee  
State Capitol Room 4126  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0014

RE: SB 1075 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Skinner:

We are writing on behalf of the Council of California County Law Librarians (CCCLL), the Northern California Association of Law Libraries (NOCALL), the San Diego Area Law Libraries (SANDALL) and the Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL) to express our organizations’ support of the Senate Rules Committee bill, SB 1075, which would enact the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. We represent law librarians from law firms, law schools, county law libraries and other institutions throughout California.

We support SB 1075 because it will ensure that anyone -- whether a judge, legislator, lawyer or member of the public -- will be able to verify the trustworthiness of California’s legal material available to them online. It covers key legal materials including the California Constitution, the state’s session laws and the California Codes. SB 1075 provides an outcomes-based approach to authentication and preservation of electronic material and provides a framework to preserve legal material in perpetuity in a manner that allows for permanent access.

This bill addresses the urgent problem, identified in American Association of Law Libraries’ 2007 State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources, that more and more states are putting their legal resources online, without assuring trustworthiness and reliability. As well, California does not currently authenticate its electronic legal materials.

UELMA is supported by the Uniform Law Commission (ULC), the American Association of Law Libraries and the American Bar Association. 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.

As California law librarians, we support SB 1075. In adopting UELMA by enacting this bill, California 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 when SB 1075 is before the Assembly Rules Committee.

Sincerely,

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cc:  California Assembly Rules Committee  
The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Chair of the Senate Rules Committee (author)