



**WRITERS GUILD  
OF AMERICA WEST**

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Chair  
Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 412 (Bauer-Kahan) – Generative artificial intelligence: training data:  
copyrighted materials. – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan,

The Writers Guild of America West (WGAW), on behalf of the more than 10,000 members who write television shows, movies, and streaming programs, strongly supports AB 412. This bill increases transparency around the use of copyrighted materials to train generative artificial intelligence (AI) models by requiring developers to provide copyright owners with information about how their materials have been used.

Artificial intelligence is a key issue for WGAW members, and the entertainment industry broadly. In 2023, members of the WGAW and the Writers Guild of America East won key protections around artificial intelligence in a 148-day strike. The resulting contract is one of the first collective bargaining agreements in the U.S. to regulate the use of AI in a creative industry, but the mass theft underlying AI technology requires legislative solutions as well.

While film and TV writers generally do not hold the copyright to their work, they have negotiated over decades for important contractual rights in their work—including credit and compensation for reuse—that exist alongside the copyright holder’s statutory rights and enable writers to share in the value of what they create. **AI models ignore copyright law and steal writers’ work without their consent or fair compensation, and then appropriate writers’ work in competing products.**

In order for copyright owners and other rightsholders to exercise their rights, they must understand if and how their creative work is being used, but AI developers’ refusal to be transparent leaves artists and rightsholders unable to confirm whether a given copyrighted work is being used to train an AI model. AB 412 is an important step toward increasing the overall transparency of AI training with copyrighted material. **For these reasons we ask for the Committee’s aye vote on AB 412 by Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan.**

Sincerely,



Shelagh Wagener  
Political and Legislative Director



Erica Knox  
Research & Public Policy Director

cc: Members, Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee