

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2022

Mr. Bob Chapek
Chief Executive Officer
The Walt Disney Company
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521

Dear Mr. Chapek,

We are writing to you regarding the forthcoming expiration of valuable copyrights owned by the Walt Disney Company (“Disney”).

In recent years, Disney has sought to expand business in China by kowtowing to its Communist regime, which is actively engaged in human rights abuses and the theft of U.S. intellectual property. Disney even filmed a movie in Xinjiang province, where officials are currently waging genocide against Uyghur Muslims, then thanked local Communist Party authorities in the movie credits.

At home, Disney has capitulated to far-left activists through hypocritical, woke corporate actions. The most recent example is Disney’s public opposition to Florida’s *Parental Rights in Education Act*, which recently passed Florida’s legislature and was signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis. The law prohibits classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity in kindergarten through the 3rd grade, topics which are inappropriate for children that age.

Disney has said it wants this law repealed even though it has broad support among Florida residents, especially parents. A senior Disney employee was recently caught on camera saying she wants “many, many, many LGBTQIA characters in our stories.” And according to a Disney employee, Disney’s Diversity Equity and Inclusion department, “expanded by an astonishing 633 percent in 2019–21, at the same time that nearly every other department was contracting by 25–75 percent.” This suggests Disney is purposefully influencing small children with its political and sexual agenda.

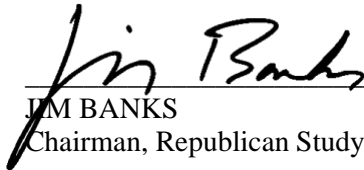
The Constitution gives Congress the authority to determine the length of time to protect copyrights. Further, it explicitly states that copyrights may not be permanent. Yet Disney’s long history of lobbying on this issue suggests that is its goal.

As you know, Mickey Mouse first debuted in 1928 and its copyright was initially protected until 1984. But in 1976, in part thanks to pressure from Disney, Congress amended existing law and extended the Mickey Mouse copyright to 2003. Then Congress extended your copyright for a second time in 1998 through the Sonny Bono Copyright Extension Act, also known as the “Mickey Mouse Protection Act.” Under current law, Disney loses its Mickey Mouse copyright on January 1, 2024.

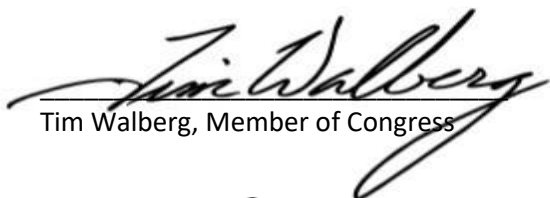
Given Disney's continued work with a Communist Chinese regime that does not respect human rights or U.S. intellectual property and given your desire to influence young children with sexual material inappropriate for their age, I will not support further extensions applicable to your copyrights, which should become public domain.

It's unfortunate that Disney, once an American success story, has allied with a hostile foreign regime and domestic ideologues who seek to tear our country apart.

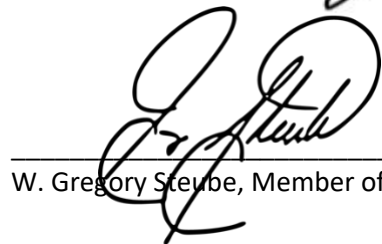
Sincerely,



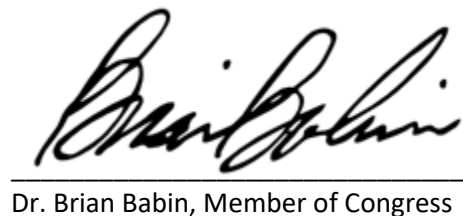
JIM BANKS
Chairman, Republican Study Committee



Tim Walberg, Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube, Member of Congress




Dr. Brian Babin, Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan, Member of Congress




Doug Lamborn, Member of Congress



Burgess Owens, Member of Congress


Ronny L. Jackson, Member of Congress


Robert Aderholt, Member of Congress


Bob Good, Member of Congress



Chris Jacobs, Member of Congress


Randy Weber, Member of Congress


Vicky Hartzler, Member of Congress


Debbie Lesko, Member of Congress


Dan Bishop, Member of Congress


Byron Donalds, Member of Congress


John Rose, Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Kat Cammack in blue ink.

Kat Cammack, Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Mary E Miller in blue ink.

Mary Miller, Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Ralph Norman in blue ink.

Ralph Norman, Member of Congress