



i2Coalition Praises Supreme Court Cox Ruling Clarifying Scope of Copyright Contributory Liability

Washington, DC – March 25 - On March 25, 2026, the Supreme Court clarified that companies are not liable for copyright infringement merely for providing services to the general public, even where some users may misuse them. In *Cox Communications Inc. v. Sony Music Entertainment*, the Court reaffirmed that contributory liability requires intent and cannot be based on generalized knowledge alone.

The Court explained: A "provider of a service is contributorily liable for the user's infringement only if it intended that the provided service be used for infringement. The intent required for contributory liability can be shown only if the party induced the infringement or the provided service is tailored to that infringement."

The i2Coalition previously joined in an amicus brief with USTelecom and an alliance of leading ISPs filed in support of Cox, urging the Court to reverse the Fourth Circuit's decision below that would have dramatically expanded secondary copyright liability in ways that threaten Internet access, broadband deployment and the broader digital economy. If left intact, the Fourth Circuit's framework would have pressured Internet infrastructure providers—including ISPs, hosting and cloud providers, and data centers—to disconnect entire networks based on automated, barebones allegations. That outcome would have harmed millions of innocent users, hampered remote education and telehealth, and impeded rural connectivity, forcing resources to shift from network investment to litigation risk.

"We are pleased that the Court rejected -- and confirmed that the Copyright Act and precedents do not require -- the Fourth Circuit's approach that would have forced a wide array of Internet service providers to terminate subscribers based on bare IP notices--punishing households, schools, hospitals and other organizations for alleged acts they did not commit," said Christian Dawson, Executive Director of the i2Coalition. "Secondary liability must be narrow. This is a sensible ruling and a victory for the resilience of Internet infrastructure service providers of all sizes and the broader Internet ecosystem."

About the Internet Infrastructure Coalition (i2Coalition)

The **Internet Infrastructure Coalition (i2Coalition)** is the leading voice for companies that build and maintain the Internet's infrastructure, including web hosts, data centers, cloud infrastructure providers, domain registrars and registries, and managed service providers. We advocate for policies that keep the Internet open, secure, and resilient, enabling innovation and economic growth worldwide. Learn more at i2coalition.com.