

Lawyers don't have a dog in Internet fight

State Sen. Kent Sorenson raises some valid concerns about federal legislation that has the Internet industry up in arms ("Don't Shackle the Internet With Ill-Conceived Laws, Regulations," Nov. 28 Opinion).

The Protect Intellectual Property/Stop Online Piracy acts that are pending in Congress need careful scrutiny to make sure that they do not stifle the open exchange of ideas and information available online. On that we can all agree, including trial attorneys.

Trial attorneys are not a driving force behind the acts, as Sen. Sorenson leads readers to believe. The battle over these bills is a classic struggle among some of the country's largest corporate interest groups who stand to benefit or lose from the proposed solutions to copyright theft and online piracy problems. Trial attorneys do not have a dog in this fight.

Many of Sen. Sorenson's concerns about the acts are well taken, but the swipes at trial attorneys are baseless and misplaced.

— Andrew Mertens,
communications director, Iowa
Association for Justice, Des Moines