



U. S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Washington, D.C. 20530

NOV 17 2017

Mr. David Baris
President
The American Association of Bank Directors
1250 24th Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Baris:

This responds to your letter dated August 8, 2017, regarding the American Association of Bank Directors' concern about demand letters and lawsuits alleging that inaccessible bank Web sites violate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We apologize for our delay in responding. Your letter asked that the Department of Justice (the Department) support legislation that would amend the ADA to "freeze" private lawsuits and Department administrative or enforcement actions against companies relating to Web or mobile device accessibility until the Department establishes a compliance standard and allows companies reasonable time to comply with that standard.

As you know, the Department has been engaged in rulemaking to consider whether specific technical standards for Web site accessibility for public entities and public accommodations should be developed. The Department has moved its rulemakings under titles II and III of the ADA regarding technical standards for Web accessibility to "inactive" status. The Department is currently in the process of reviewing its entire regulatory landscape and associated agenda pursuant to the regulatory reform provisions of Executive Order 13771, "Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs," and Executive Order 13777, "Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda." Because these are ongoing deliberations, we cannot comment further at this time on the Department's regulatory planning.

We very much appreciate your concerns regarding the impact that the risk of litigation has on the business community. The Department's Office of Legislative Affairs coordinates the review of legislation and articulates the Department's position on legislation proposed by Congress. The Department remains committed to safeguarding accessibility while also ensuring that compliance with the ADA is feasible and sustainable for businesses. We look forward to working with stakeholders, including those in the business community, in order to do so.

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We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

John M. Gore/RBB

John M. Gore
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division