

May 25, 2011

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

The undersigned businesses, trade associations, and professional and labor organizations, representing a broad cross-section of the American economy, endorse S. 968, the “PROTECT IP Act of 2011” to protect American jobs and consumers.

The time for action against those who use websites to make illegal profits by stealing the intellectual property (IP) of America’s innovative and creative industries is now. These rogue sites are part of a network of counterfeiting and piracy that a study has found to cost 2.5 million jobs in the G20 economies.

Many of these sites pose as legitimate businesses, luring consumers with sophisticated and well-designed websites. But, in reality, the counterfeit and pirated products these sites distribute are often of poor quality, harmful, and promote fraud. Further, consumers put themselves at risk of identity theft and malicious computer viruses by visiting these sites. The PROTECT IP Act is a major step to make the Internet safer and protect consumers from the dangers of rogue sites in the online marketplace.

IP-intensive industries are a cornerstone of the U.S. economy, employing more than 19 million people and accounting for 60 percent of exports. Rampant online counterfeiting and piracy presents a clear and present threat that the U.S. must do more to address. A study examined approximately 100 rogue sites and found that these sites attracted more than 53 billion visits per year. That averages about 9 visits for every man, woman, and child on Earth. It is not surprising that global sales of counterfeit goods via the Internet from illegitimate retailers reached \$135 billion in 2010. What’s more, as a consequence of global and U.S.-based piracy of copyright products, the U.S. economy lost \$58 billion in total output in 2007.

The United States cannot and should not tolerate this criminal activity. As the studies show, the theft of American IP is the theft of American jobs. Rogue sites negatively impact the health and safety of American citizens. We urge you to approve the PROTECT IP Act and work with your colleagues in the House of Representatives to enact carefully balanced legislation this year. We look forward to working with you in support of that goal.

Sincerely,

1-800 Contacts, Inc.
1-800-PetMeds
ABRO Industries, Inc.
Acushnet Company
adidas America
Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
Alliance of Visual Artists (AVA)

American Association of Independent Music (A2IM)
American Board of Internal Medicine
American Federation of Musicians
American Made Alliance
American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)
American Society of Media Photographers
Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Initiative (ACAPI)
Association of American Publishers (AAP)
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Association of Independent Music Publishers (AIMP)
Association of Test Publishers
Autodesk, Inc.
Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association
Beachbody, LLC
Beam Global Spirits & Wine
Blue Sky Studios, Inc.
Bose Corporation
Brigid Collins Family Support Center
Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI)
Burberry
Cascade Designs Incorporated
CBS Corporation
Cengage Learning
CFA Institute
Chanel USA
Church Music Publishers Association
Coalition Against Counterfeiting and Piracy (CACP)
The Collegiate Licensing Company/IMG College
Comcast Corporation
Commercial Photographers International
Copyright Alliance
Copyright Clearance Center (CCC)
Coty Inc.
Country Music Association
Dayco Products, LLC
Deluxe Entertainment Services Group
Dolce & Gabbana
Dollar General Corporation
Electronic Components Industry Association (ECIA)
Eli Lilly and Company
Entertainment Software Association (ESA)
ERAI, Inc.
The Estee Lauder Companies
Evidence Photographers International Council
Ex Officio
Exxel Outdoors
Far Bank Enterprises

Fashion Business Incorporated
Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy
Ford Motor Company
Fortune Brands, Inc.
Gemvision Corporation
Gospel Music Association
Governors America Corp.
Graduate Management Admission Council
Greeting Card Association (GCA)
Guru Denim
HarperCollins Publishers
Harry Fox Agency
Hastings Entertainment, Inc.
ICM Distributing Company, Inc.
IDS Publishing
IEC Electronics corp.
Imaging Supplies Coalition (ISC)
Independent Distributors of Electronics Association (IDEA)
Innate-gear
Intellectual Property Owners Association
International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition (IACC)
International Trademark Association (INTA)
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
Johnson & Johnson
Kekepana International Services
Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.
Lexmark International, Inc.
L'Oréal USA
LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton
Macmillan
Major League Baseball
Marmot
The McGraw-Hill Companies
Merck & Co., Inc.
Messy Face Designs, Inc.
MicroRam Electronics, Inc.
Monster Cable Products, Inc.
Motion Picture Association of America, Inc. (MPAA)
Music Managers Forum-U.S.
Nashville Songwriters Association International
National Association of Broadcasters
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Recording Merchandisers (NARM)
National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO)
National Basketball Association (NBA)
The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)

National Football League (NFL)
National Music Publishers' Association (NMPA)
NBCUniversal
Nervous Tattoo Inc., dba Ed Hardy
New Era Cap Co Inc
News Corporation
Nike, Inc.
Nintendo of America Inc.
Oakley, Inc.
OpSec Security, Inc.
Outdoor Industry Association
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI)
Outdoor Research, Inc
Pacific Component Xchange, Inc.
Perry Ellis International
Personal Care Products Council
Petzl America
Pfizer Inc.
Picture Archive Council of America (PACA)
PING
Premier League
Production Music Association (PMA)
Professional Photographers of America
Quality Float Works, Inc.
The Recording Academy (National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences)
Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA)
Reebok International Ltd.
Reed Elsevier Inc.
Revlon
Romance Writers of America (RWA)
Rosetta Stone Inc.
Schneider Electric
SESAC, Inc.
SG Industries, Inc.
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
SMT Corp.
Society of Sport & Event Photographers
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
Sony Music Entertainment
Sony Pictures Entertainment
SoundExchange
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)
Sports Rights Owners Coalition
Spyder Active Sports, Inc
Stock Artist Alliance
Stuart Weitzman Holdings, LLC
Student Photographic Society

SunRise Solar Inc.
Taylor Made Golf Company, Inc.
Tehnologies, Inc.
Tiffany & Co.
The Timberland Company
Time Warner Inc.
Toshiba America Business Solutions, Inc.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Ultimate Fighting Championship
Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Universal Music Group
Uniweld Products Inc.
Viacom
Vibram USA, Inc
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Co.
Wal-Mart
The Walt Disney Company
Warner Music Group
Winestem Company
Xerox Corporation
Zippo Manufacturing Company