

April 18, 2007

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 522, the "Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Act"

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Specter:

The organizations below respectfully request that the Senate Judiciary Committee schedule a hearing on S. 522, the "Intellectual Property (IP) Rights Enforcement Act." This legislation is designed to ensure the permanence of the current Administration's intellectual property enforcement efforts—the Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy (STOP!) Initiative. This bill seeks to establish a Senate confirmed position within the White House as a way to elevate the importance of maintaining a robust IP system in the U.S. and in particular, improve existing coordination and enforcement efforts. By codifying the White House's role, we can ensure future administrations will be committed to serving as a stalwart of IP enforcement

The power of intellectual property and innovation to drive economic development and growth is evident throughout the world. The United States' intellectual property is worth between \$5 trillion and \$5.5 trillion. This is equivalent to about 45 percent of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) and greater than the GDP of many nations around the world. Those who make and sell counterfeit products and pirated technologies profit off the investment of innovators and authors that invest time and money into creating valuable and marketable products. The Organization for Economic Development has estimated that counterfeiting and piracy costs global companies as much as \$638 billion a year, losses greater than the total combined GDP of all but 12 countries. This global scourge has robbed our economy of approximately 750,000 jobs.

Our nation's economic prosperity and global competitiveness is directly linked to our ability to protect intellectual property rights. In recognition of the growing problem caused by intellectual property theft, this legislation proposes to add critical agencies to the enforcement network. Expanding the number of agencies participating in the current National Intellectual Property Law Enforcement Coordination Council (NIPLECC) would result in a restructured and fortified cooperative effort.

S. 522 is a sensible bill that enjoys strong support. Furthermore, it complements ongoing efforts to strengthen the ability for IP holders to protect their rights domestically and internationally. Therefore, we urge the Committee to schedule a hearing to discuss this important legislative proposal as a means to continue to address these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Visual Artists  
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers  
American Apparel & Footwear Association  
American Electronics Association  
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)  
Association for Competitive Technology  
Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association

CropLife America  
Electronic Industries Alliance  
Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association  
Grocery Manufacturers/Food Products Association  
Intellectual Property Owners Association  
Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce  
Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Electronic Distributors Association  
National Electronic Manufactures Association  
Professional Photographers of America  
Robert Branand International  
Specialty Equipment Market Association  
Toy Industry Association  
The George Washington University Law School Creative and Innovative Economy Center  
The International Trademark Association  
The International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition  
Underwriters Laboratories Inc.  
United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Members of the Committee on the Judiciary