

February 15, 2011

Rogue Sites are Stealing American Jobs and Hurting Consumers!

To the Members of the United States Congress:

The more than 80 undersigned businesses and professional and labor organizations, representing over **1.5 million jobs and workers**, and more than 50 trade associations representing thousands of companies, urge you to make it a priority to enact legislation that will provide the government with enhanced tools to disrupt the efforts of those who use websites to make illegal profits by stealing the intellectual property (IP) of America's innovative and creative industries. These rogue websites are part of a network of counterfeiting and piracy that a recent study found 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. Legislation to disrupt these efforts is a major step to make the Internet safer and protect consumers from the dangers of buying 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 our exports. Rampant online counterfeiting and piracy presents a clear and present threat that we must do more to address. A recent study examined about 100 rogue websites 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 \$58.0 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. And rogue sites negatively impact the health and safety of American citizens. Last year, Senator Patrick Leahy and Senator Orrin Hatch introduced S. 3804 to combat rogue sites and were joined by an impressively bipartisan group of 18 additional Senators. That bill was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee 19-0. In the House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith and Ranking Member John Conyers have long recognized the harm from IP theft and supported efforts to address it. We urge you to support bicameral introduction and enactment of carefully balanced rogue sites legislation this year and look forward to working with you in support of that goal.

Sincerely,

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
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 Test Publishers
Autodesk, Inc.
Beachbody, LLC
Beam Global Spirits & Wine
Bose Corporation
Brigid Collins Family Support Center
Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI)
Cascade Designs Incorporated
Cengage Learning
CFA Institute
Chanel USA
Church Music Publishers Association
Coalition Against Counterfeiting and Piracy (CACCP)
Commercial Photographers International
Copyright Clearance Center (CCC)
Country Music Association
Electronic Components Industry Association (ECIA)
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)
Harry Fox Agency

Hastings Entertainment, Inc.
IDS Publishing
Imaging Supplies Coalition (ISC)
Independent Distributors of Electronics Association (IDEA)
Innate-gear
Intellectual Property Owners Association
International Trademark Association (INTA)
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
Kekepana International Services
Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.
Lexmark International, Inc.
LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton
Major League Baseball
Marmot
The McGraw-Hill Companies
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
National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO)
National Basketball Association (NBA)
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.
Pearson Education
Personal Care Products Council
Petzl America
Picture Archive Council of America (PACA)
PING
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.
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.
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
Viacom
Vibram USA, Inc
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Co.
The Walt Disney Company
Warner Music Group
Winestem Company
Xerox Corporation
Zippo Manufacturing Company