

June 20, 2011

Senator Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman

Senator Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member

Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Senators Leahy and Grassley:

The Institute for Policy Innovation (IPI) commends to you and to your colleagues on the committee the important work of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in working to reduce the harmful impact of piracy and counterfeiting on the U.S. economy.

IPI works actively in the area of intellectual property policy, and is an accredited observer NGO with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Our research has helped to document the harm done to the U.S. economy by piracy and counterfeiting, and IPI believes that strong IP protection and enforcement is critical to the vitality and global competitiveness of the U.S. economy.

We are aware of the efforts of ICE through a personal briefing we were given at the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, though the regular email updates that we receive, and through the testimony of other agencies that work in coordination with ICE; specifically, of ICE's operations related to Internet websites distributing pirated and counterfeit goods, and the success of their surge enforcement operations against distributors of such goods.

In an economy that is increasingly dependent on our ability to create and innovate, and to export those goods worldwide, it is vital that American workers have their livelihoods protected from piracy and counterfeiting, and that American consumers be protected from the harm of illegal goods.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts of ICE, and of the Judiciary Committee, and pledge to assist you in any way that we can to ensure the vitality of the U.S. economy through strong IP enforcement.

Sincerely,



Tom Giovanetti
President

www.ipi.org

Tom Giovanetti
President
tomg@ipi.org

Board of Directors

Chairman
Michael E. Williams, Ph.D.
University of Denver

Mark Miller
Chief Financial Officer
Institute for Policy Innovation

Roger E. Meiners, Ph.D.
Professor of Law and Economics
University of Texas at Arlington

Ryan C. Amacher, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics and Public Affairs
University of Texas at Arlington

Joseph Sullivan
President
ISA

Board of Advisors

Ernest S. Christian
Center for Strategic Tax Reform

Stephen J. Entin
President and Executive Director
Institute for Research on the Economics of Taxation

James Olan Hutcheson
President
Regeneration Partners

Stephen Moore
Editorial Board
Wall Street Journal

Gordon Tullock
Professor of Law and Economics
George Mason University

James R. Von Ehr, II
President and CEO
Zyrex

Thomas G. West
Professor of Politics
University of Dallas

1660 South Stemmons,
Suite 245
Lewisville, TX 75067
(972) 874-5139 voice
(972) 874-5144 fax

email ipi@ipi.org