



**National District Attorneys Association**

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August 2, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
The United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
The United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
The United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
The United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Grassley and Senator Hatch:

On behalf of the National District Attorneys Association, the oldest and largest organization representing over 39,000 of America's state and local prosecutors, we write to urge you to address the serious issue of counterfeiting and theft of U.S. products occurring on foreign "rogue" websites by taking up and passing S. 968, the PROTECT IP Act.

Today, it is more important than ever to strengthen law enforcement's ability to combat the theft of intellectual property (IP). Copyright infringers and counterfeiters profit from the theft of American-made products and ideas, jeopardizing revenues and jobs in intellectual property companies that together make up more than a third of the U.S. economy and employ more than 19 million workers. Moreover, counterfeit products are often of inferior quality or outright harmful design, posing a serious and very real threat to the health, safety, and wellbeing of our citizens and to the economic competitiveness of our states and our companies. We cannot let this urgent threat go unanswered.

While counterfeiting and the theft of content are not new, the proliferation and extent of these activities today is unprecedented. Criminals have turned to the Internet, abusing its virtually unlimited distribution opportunities to expand their illicit activities and fatten their profits. And they are succeeding; a recent study found that just a small sample of 43 rogue sites generate over 53 billion visits a year. A growing number of these rogue sites are based overseas, presenting law enforcement with unique enforcement challenges.

We are therefore pleased that the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously passed the PROTECT IP Act, and we urge you to bring it to the floor for a vote. As the world's oldest and largest professional organization representing criminal prosecutors, we appreciate the need for strong federal legislation to stop these rogue sites and protect American jobs. To effectively disrupt the rogue sites' business model, law enforcement needs the authority to enlist the help of other

players in the Internet ecosystem, including infrastructure providers like ISPs and financial service providers like payment processors, to cut these sites off from the American marketplace. This narrowly tailored response will help encourage Internet users to find legitimate sources for goods and content, and will ensure that counterfeiters and pirates can no longer profit from this clearly illegal activity.

To combat intellectual property theft and the host of other dangerous crimes it feeds, we urge the Senate to make the enactment of rogue sites legislation a top priority this year. We, our members, and the citizens of the respective states, cities, and counties they serve thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Burns', with a large, stylized initial 'S' and a horizontal flourish at the end.

Scott Burns  
Executive Director