



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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August 8, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Conyers:

On behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, representing the 63 largest Police Departments in the Nation, I am writing to encourage you to take action against the threat of foreign websites which sell counterfeit U.S. goods and routinely violate the intellectual property rights of U.S. companies and individuals.

Intellectual property theft and the sale of counterfeit goods cause serious negative consequences in our Nation's major cities. When foreign entities infringe upon the rights of US copyright holders or produce counterfeit U.S. products, our economy suffers. Furthermore, counterfeit goods may pose more direct risks to consumers, because counterfeit goods may be of such poor quality that they jeopardize the health or safety of their users.

Currently, law enforcement in the United States has few options available to counteract the threat of foreign intellectual property theft and counterfeiting. We therefore encourage you to introduce legislation to help address this growing problem. Law enforcement cannot address the problem alone, which is why Internet infrastructure providers like ISPs and financial service providers should be included in any legislative solution. These organizations are uniquely positioned to ensure counterfeiters and intellectual property thieves cannot easily access the United States market.

Thank you for your leadership on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Ramsey
Police Commissioner, City of Philadelphia
President, Major Cities Chiefs' Association