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

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley,

On behalf of the Major County Sheriffs' Association (MCSA) I am writing in support of S. 968, the Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011. The theft of intellectual property (IP) has become a major issue that law enforcement must combat using various resources. Law enforcement's ability to crack down on counterfeiters and their deception of the general public must be strengthened.

Counterfeiters and other criminals are increasingly turning to the Internet to conduct and enhance their illegal activities. Law enforcement must have the proper authority and capability to coordinate with other stakeholders such as ISPs to disrupt and halt the illegal counterfeiting and distribution of goods.

Intellectual property theft and other counterfeiting are problems that increasingly are affecting all levels of government. We urge the Senate to pass this legislation to ensure law enforcement has the ability to act and disrupt these illegal activities.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Gillespie, Sheriff