

SUPPORT FOR S. 3804, THE COMBATING ONLINE INFRINGEMENT AND COUNTERFEITS ACT PROTECTING AMERICAN JOBS, AMERICAN INNOVATION, AND AMERICAN CONSUMERS

Support for the Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act has come from several stakeholders, including organizations committed to protecting trademarked goods and preventing the sale of counterfeits, the music, movie and television industries, authors and publishers, anti-piracy organizations, and labor groups.

Labor Unions

“We believe that the tools S. 3804 would provide are essential to helping address these illegal websites and ensuring that the Internet is a safe and vibrant marketplace. We are particularly concerned with the very real impact on American jobs brought about by the growth of rogue websites. Our unions represent hundreds of thousands of workers in industries that have suffered significant harm due to theft of copyrighted and trademarked goods...counterfeiting and piracy of intellectual property has an impact on 18 million American workers in IP-sensitive industries and our unions have joined with employers in these industries to find a solution.” - *International Brotherhood of Electrical Engineers, Teamsters, Building and Construction Trades Department of AFL-CIO, Communications Workers of America, Int’l Brotherhood of Boilermakers AFL-CIO, International Association of Firefighters, American Federation of Musicians, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, and the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers, and Grain Millers International Union, November 17, 2010*

Newspaper Association of America

“I write on behalf of the Newspaper Association of America (NAA) in support of S. 3804, the Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act...We see COICA as an essential step in the right direction in the effort to combat online intellectual property infringement...Our voices are routinely among those sought to be silenced by regimes that wrongfully censor the Internet. We stand second to no organization in our opposition to Internet censorship. However, the notion that repressive governments will apply COICA’s methods to restrain speech is unpersuasive.” – *John F. Sturm, President, National Newspaper Association of America, November 17, 2010*

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

“The Chamber believes that effectively addressing the proliferation of these sites is necessary to protect jobs in key industries and consumers from unsafe products and services, and to facilitate the continued growth of the vibrant, legitimate internet marketplace...The Chamber commends you for the thoughtful framework laid out in the current bill to attack the growing problem of online IP theft.” – *R. Bruce Josten, Executive Vice President, Government Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, September 21, 2010*

National Association of Attorneys General Intellectual Property Committee

“The importance of halting counterfeiting and piracy cannot be understated...S. 3804 would provide the Department of Justice with an expedited process to crack down on criminal websites by seeking a court order that would cut them off from the technological services and revenue streams they require to operate. We appreciate [] efforts to carefully craft this legislation to ensure that DOJ targets only the worst of the worst infringement sites.” - *Jim Hood and Rob McKenna, co-chairs, National Association of Attorneys General Intellectual Property Committee, November 17, 2010*

Recording Industry Association of America

“This bill is a welcome step toward cutting off the financial lifeline that sustains these illegal operations and threatens the livelihoods of countless members of the American music community.” – *Mitch Bainwol, Chairman, Recording Industry Association of America, September 20, 2010*

[Motion Picture Association of America](#)

“We’re very pleased to join a great number of creators and workers from throughout the motion picture and television industry in support...of this important legislation to combat efforts to steal the lifeblood of one of our nation’s most important industries...we look forward to working with Chairman Leahy and the Senate and House committees to help strengthen the bill, which we believe provides a major step forward in effort to combat a growing threat to the financial health and welfare of the men and women who work in our industry.” – *Bob Pisano, President, Motion Picture Association of America, September 20, 2010*

[Business Organizations](#)

“Rogue websites – many of which are hosted outside of the U.S. – have become increasingly sophisticated in both design and operation, and often deceive consumers into believing they are legitimate. These sites not only undermine the growth and stability of many industries and the American jobs that they support, but represent a severe health and safety risk to consumers who unwittingly purchase hazardous products. We believe that the tools S. 3804 would provide are essential to helping address these illegal websites...” – *Joint Letter from Business Organizations, October 21, 2010*

[AFTRA – DGA – IATSE – SAG](#)

“A fair and equitable balance of various interests and adequate protections against abuse is always the desired goal of public policy. We know you and the other co-sponsors of this legislation have, in the crafting of this legislation, done just that and will continue to do so.” – *American Federation of Television and Radio Artists; Directors Guild of America; The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees; Screen Actors Guild, September 29, 2010*

[Software & Information Industry Association](#)

“The Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act arms our justice system with the tools it needs to combat software and content piracy and protect consumers...The legislation...gives authorities the power to cut piracy off at the source by eliminating critical technical and financial resources.” – *Keith Kupferschmid, Software & Information Industry Association, September 20, 2010*

[Coalition Against Counterfeiting and Piracy](#)

“This legislation would provide important enhanced legal tools to combat websites that engage in and enable illegal operations centered on stealing the intellectual property of others.” – *Richard Cotton, Chairman, Coalition Against Counterfeiting and Piracy, September 21, 2010*

[International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition](#)

“While counterfeiters have demonstrated ingenuity and agility in exploiting new technologies in order to profit at the expense of legitimate manufacturers, the legislation you’ve introduced today provides the Department of Justice with important new tools to ensure that law enforcement will likewise have the agility needed to address these criminal operations.” – *Bob Barchiesi, President, International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition, September 20, 2010*

[Champions of Free Speech](#)

“We write not only as champions of free expression and Internet freedom but also as those whose livelihoods depend on it...We reject the notion that S. 3804 compromises the position of the U.S. as the global leading advocate for a free and open Internet...The Senate Judiciary Committee has proven time and again that it can legislate in a manner that secures the property rights of creators while preserving copyright’s historic role as the ‘engine of free expression.’” – *Joint Letter, November 16, 2010*

Background on the Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act

The bipartisan Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act will provide law enforcement with tools to track and shut down websites devoted to providing access to unauthorized downloads, streaming or sale of copyrighted content and counterfeit goods. These illegal products range from new movie and music releases, to pharmaceuticals and consumer products.

The Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act is sponsored by Senators Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), and is cosponsored by Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Arlen Specter (D-Pa.), Tom Coburn (R-Okla.), Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), George Voinovich (R-Ohio), Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) and Bob Menendez (D-N.J.).