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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

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April 13, 2018

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer,

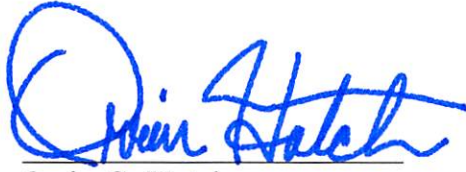
We write in support of the inclusion of strong copyright protections and enforcement provisions in U.S. trade agreements. Our country's creative and innovative industries contribute substantially to the U.S. economy, and the American creators and innovators at the heart of those contributions rely on the vigorous protection and enforcement of their intellectual property rights both at home and abroad.

Millions of Americans in a variety of industries – including movie, music, publishing, software, and television – depend on longstanding U.S. copyright laws to transform new and creative ideas into innovative products and services. These products and services benefit consumers and enrich people's lives in countless ways. The commercialization and subsequent widespread accessibility of such products and services, however, cannot occur absent robust and reliable copyright protections and practices.

Similarly, America's creators and innovators cannot export their products and services to new global markets absent equally strong protections for intellectual property rights abroad. Without adequate global safeguards to combat the growing international incidence of counterfeit goods and intellectual property theft, the strength and vitality of America's most creative and innovative sectors diminishes. In addition, a variety of downstream supportive sectors – for example, logistics, publishing, recreation, and retail – are harmed.

In the context of both existing and future trade agreements, the administration must ensure that copyright laws abroad strengthen, rather than create exceptions to, protections for America's creators and innovators. We therefore urge you to make strong and enforceable protections for creative works a priority in any negotiation with our trading partners, including ongoing negotiations to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement. We look forward to continuing to work with you to promote and protect America's creative works around the world.

Sincerely,



Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance



Bill Nelson
Member
Senate Committee on Finance