



July 12, 2018

Senator Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chris Coons
127A Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Portman and Coons:

We write to you on behalf of America's creative and innovative sectors regarding the recently launched Senate UK Trade Caucus.¹

The American Creative, Technology & Innovative Organizations Network (ACTION) for Trade represents industries ranging from music, film, and publishing to software development and biopharmaceutical manufacturing. Our products and services harness America's ingenuity and creativity to enable people to live richer, healthier lives. And they generate significant prosperity for America.

Together, these sectors support 58 million American jobs² and account for more than 38 percent of our nation's GDP.³ The biopharmaceutical sector alone added \$1.3 trillion to the U.S. economy in 2016. The technology sector's annual contribution exceeds \$1 trillion.⁴ Our industries also are responsible for more than half of all U.S. exports.⁵ This includes \$842 billion in merchandise exports and an additional \$80 billion in services.⁶

Our industries are engines of economic growth and opportunity in the United States. But our ability to create jobs and drive prosperity depends on a strong global system of intellectual property rights. Lax IP enforcement around the world puts these economic contributions at

¹ <https://www.portman.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=262667B0-E0AA-4FF8-B2B8-50AB19A5EDD8>

² <http://actionfortrade.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/The-Value-of-Innovation-and-Creativity.pdf>

³ <https://www.state.gov/e/eb/cba/ipe/index.htm>

⁴ http://actionfortrade.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ACTIONforTrade_Info.pdf

⁵ <http://actionfortrade.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/The-Value-of-Innovation-and-Creativity.pdf>

⁶ <http://actionfortrade.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/The-Value-of-Innovation-and-Creativity.pdf>

serious risk. Each year, the United States loses \$180 billion to stolen trade secrets and at least another \$29 billion in displaced sales from pirated or counterfeit products.⁷

Fortunately, the U.S. and UK have a shared interest in protecting intellectual property. A US-UK trade pact is a valuable opportunity to forge a mutually beneficial agreement that sets a new standard for IP protection and enforcement.

In 2017, the United States exported over \$3.6 billion in pharmaceuticals and medicines to the UK, our country's 7th largest total exports market.⁸ In 2016, American companies licensed over \$4.4 billion of audio-visual works in the UK, including movie and television programming, books, and sound recordings -- more than three times what we exported to the next largest European market.⁹

ACTION for Trade stands ready to assist you as leaders of the new Senate UK Trade Caucus to ensure that the U.S.-UK economic relationship supports strong IP standards that will drive growth, stimulate innovation, and create American jobs and prosperity for years to come.

We look forward to collaborating with you.

Sincerely,

ACTION for Trade

⁷ <https://www.state.gov/e/eb/cba/ipe/index.htm>

⁸ https://tpis2.trade.gov/TPIS_PUBLIC/tpis_ctysel1.aspx#TPISDataTable

⁹ <https://www.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=62&step=1#reqid=62&step=7&isuri=1&6210=4&6200=246&6211=253>