

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000  
202/463-5310

April 8, 2008

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conyers and Ranking Member Smith:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, would like to thank you for scheduling a full committee markup of H.R. 4279, the "Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2007," (PRO-IP Act).

Protection of intellectual property (IP) is critical to America's continued competitiveness and future economic security. Counterfeiting and piracy of IP have resulted in the loss of estimated 750,000 U.S. jobs and deprive U.S. companies close to \$250 billion in annual revenue. Moreover, counterfeit products such as auto and aviation parts, toothpaste, prescription drugs, and many others pose a severe health and safety risk to American consumers.

Unfortunately, the incidence of counterfeiting and piracy has increased faster than the government resources necessary to stop this problem and current legal penalties are insufficient to deter criminals. H.R. 4279 addresses these concerns by providing increased resources and coordination within the executive branch for IP enforcement and enhancing civil and criminal IP laws.

The Chamber appreciates your leadership on this important issue and supports expeditious approval of the PRO-IP Act by the Judiciary Committee and the full House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

R. Bruce Josten

Cc: Members of the Committee on the Judiciary