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April 25, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alan Mollohan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Wolf
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Via Facsimile

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairman Mollohan and Ranking Member Wolf:

We write to ask that Congress assist state and local law enforcement in addressing the growing problem of counterfeiting and piracy by providing \$25 million in fiscal year 2010 for intellectual property (IP) enforcement grants administered by the Office of Justice Programs.

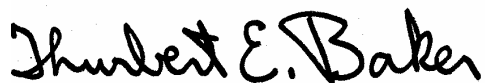
As you know, IP theft is estimated to cost the U.S. economy \$200-250 billion each year and causes substantial loss of jobs, which we cannot afford during these difficult economic times. Furthermore, counterfeiters pose a grave risk to our citizens' health and safety by trafficking in dangerous products such as defective electrical products, counterfeit brake pads made of sawdust, fake toothpaste laced with antifreeze, and bogus pharmaceuticals.

To address this issue, last year, Congress enacted the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act (PRO-IP Act) with overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Importantly, this legislation recognized that intellectual property crimes cannot be adequately addressed at the federal level alone. Accordingly, it authorizes \$25 million per year through fiscal year 2013 to establish state and local law intellectual property enforcement programs. The grants could pay for law enforcement training programs, public education programs, the establishment of federal-state-local task forces, and certain special expenses incurred through efforts to combat counterfeiting and piracy.

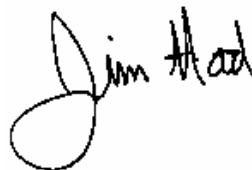
Many state and local law enforcement agencies are ready and eager to address this important problem, and fully funding these grants would greatly assist their efforts to establish necessary programs.

We look forward to working with you in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



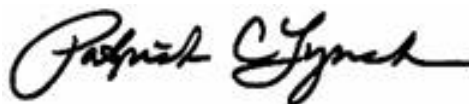
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Patrick C. Lynch
Attorney General of Rhode Island



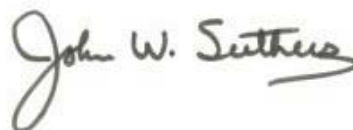
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Attorney General of Arkansas



John W. Suthers
Attorney General of Colorado



Richard Blumenthal
Attorney General of Connecticut



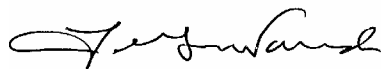
Richard S. Gebelein
Acting Attorney General of Delaware



Bill McCollum
Attorney General of Florida



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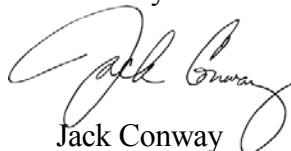
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Attorney General of New Mexico

Roy Cooper
Attorney General of North Carolina

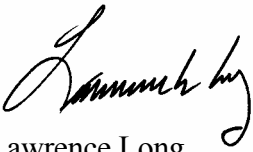
Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General of North Dakota

Richard Cordray
Attorney General of Ohio

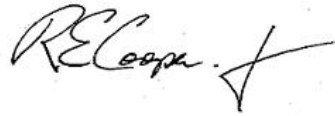
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Robert E. Cooper, Jr.
Attorney General of Tennessee



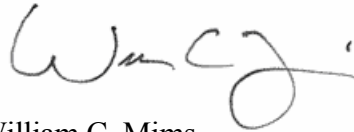
Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas



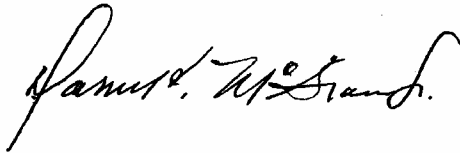
Mark L. Shurtleff
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William Sorrell
Attorney General of Vermont



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Attorney General of Virginia



Darrell V. McGraw, Jr.
Attorney General of West Virginia

cc: The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Dave Obey, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Members of the House Appropriations Committee