



December 7, 2011

Chairman Lamar Smith  
House Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member John Conyers  
House Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sirs:

We are writing as leaders of the technology industry who are focused on the climate for innovation and job-creation in the United States. As you know, innovation from the technology industry is critical to job growth. A recent study by McKinsey underscores the importance of the Internet to the economy. The McKinsey study found that the Internet contributes to 3.4% of GDP in a set of 13 developed countries, and has accounted for 21% of economic growth in these countries in the past five years.

It is with this context in mind that we write to ask that Congress proceed deliberately with legislation aimed at the piracy of digital content. We agree with the need to address this problem, for when creators of new products and services see their work stolen, that hurts the economy.

Yet addressing this problem is necessarily complex, given the extensive nature of a global Internet that connects innumerable devices and people, with incredible speed and efficiency, furthering economic and expressive opportunities the world over. This makes devising an effective legal regime to address online piracy very challenging. Efforts to address online piracy aimed at specific behaviors or parts of the network could have unintended consequences elsewhere - consequences that may undermine the value that digital products and services creates for so many.

We therefore respectfully ask that sponsors of this legislation to continue to work to bring together for additional discussions of legislative measures all concerned stakeholders for mutual discussion of the best legislative measures to deal with the problem of rogue foreign websites before further moving the Stop Online Piracy Act or the Protect IP Act. Not only is a growing amount of economic activity facilitated by the Internet, but future economic and social growth is dependent on this critical infrastructure. Congress - working with all stakeholders - can develop legislation that will address online piracy while ensuring that the Internet continues to foster creativity, innovation, and growth.

Sincerely,

Consumer Electronics Association  
Computer & Communications  
Industry Association  
Information Technology Industry Council

National Venture Capital Association  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
TechNet  
TechAmerica

Cc: House Speaker John Boehner  
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi