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September 22, 2010

To: All Senators, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
RE: Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act

On behalf of the Property Rights Alliance, I urge you to support Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) on **S. 3804, the "Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act."** This bill ensures that websites and domain names which facilitate and profit from the illegal distribution of intellectual property are shut down before any further copyright infringement can take place.

American industries that rely on intellectual property rights employ over 18 million people and account for over \$5 trillion of U.S. gross domestic product. The entertainment industry is perhaps the most visible victim of online infringement through illegal music downloads and video streaming, but there are countless other industries, including pharmaceuticals, machinery, and clothing that rely on the protection of intellectual property rights in order to not only thrive, but survive.

With the propagation of the internet, counterfeiting and piracy is getting easier to commit, with some individuals profiting from the illegal distribution of materials protected under intellectual property rights law. S. 3804 takes the necessary and proper measures to protect American industry by granting the U.S. Department of Justice and the Attorney General the authority to issue *in rem* actions against any domain name that is dedicated to the distribution of pirated or counterfeit materials.

Support for this bill means protection of American workers and consumers by ensuring that the creators of music, movies, television shows, pharmaceuticals, etc get credit and compensation for their efforts. I commend Senator Leahy and all the bills cosponsors for introducing this first step towards enhanced protection of American invention and ingenuity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelsey Zahourek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Kelsey Zahourek
Executive Director