



April 16, 2015

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Finance  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
 Ranking Member  
 Committee on Finance  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Ways & Means  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin  
 Ranking Member  
 Committee on Ways & Means  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hatch, Chairman Ryan, Ranking Member Wyden, and Ranking Member Levin:

We write in support of your efforts to secure passage of bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) as early as possible this year. TPA plays an essential role in facilitating trade agreements that elevate global standards and secure new market access for U.S. companies. Now is a particularly critical time to advance TPA given intense efforts to complete a high-standard Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement.

In the United States, intellectual property -intensive industries are a cornerstone of our economy. These industries account for approximately 35 percent of U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), more than one quarter of U.S. jobs, and 60 percent of U.S. exports. Effective intellectual property protections and clear 21<sup>st</sup> Century rules on e-commerce and cross border data flows are essential to our competitiveness.

U.S. trade agreements are a key tool to promote strong standards for IP protection and enforcement. Including intellectual property protections in TPP that are similar to, or in the case of trade secrets and biologics, stronger than those found in our most recent trade agreements, and are fully consistent with U.S. law, is vital to creating meaningful new market access for U.S. innovations and creations.

We continue to support the negotiating objectives in last year's bicameral and bipartisan TPA legislation affirming the importance of including adequate and effective intellectual property rights and clear obligations against market access barriers on e-commerce in U.S. trade agreements. These objectives direct that U.S. trade agreements should "reflect a standard of [intellectual property] protection similar to that found in United States law."

Last year's TPA language was widely supported across industries. We believe that language is right and that the mandate expressed in the 2014 legislation provides ample guidance for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, in partnership with Congress, to negotiate effective obligations and evolve those over time as needed. In order to secure TPA passage as expeditiously as possible this year, we support incorporating last year's TPA provisions on intellectual property and digital trade in goods and services and cross-border data flows unchanged into the legislation this Congress.

We very much appreciate your leadership on this important effort. We look forward to working with you to advance trade legislation that supports our innovative and creative economy.

Sincerely,

Advanced-Manufacturing Coalition for Technology & Innovation  
American Intellectual Property Law Association  
Association of American Publishers  
Biotechnology Industry Association  
BSA | The Software Alliance  
Entertainment Software Association  
Global Intellectual Property Center  
Intellectual Property Owners Association  
International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition  
International Intellectual Property Alliance  
Motion Picture Association of America  
National Association of Broadcasters  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Music Publishers' Association  
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America  
Recording Industry Association of America

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Finance  
Members of the House Ways & Means Committee