



August 28, 2009

By Facsimile and Regular Mail

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**SUBJECT: PRO-IP ACT FUNDING IN THE FY 10 COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The California Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges your **SUPPORT** of robust funding for intellectual property (IP) enforcement within the FY10 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (CJS).

The problem of counterfeiting and piracy is a crucial issue for the state of California. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has indicated that intellectual property piracy is a leading issue “critical to the future growth of California’s global economy.” Given California’s position in the world economy, the state has a lot to lose when it comes to intellectual property theft. In fact, the California economy loses an estimated \$34 billion per year to counterfeiting and piracy. On a national level, recent estimates indicate that IP theft has cost the U.S. economy hundreds of thousands of jobs and causes businesses to lose more than \$200 billion in annual revenue.

While California has made strides to strengthen intellectual property right protections at the state level, Californians rely heavily upon strong federal intellectual property standards and enforcement efforts. Last year Congress took an important step to increase IP enforcement resources by enacting the PRO-IP Act (P.L. 110-403). Among other things, PRO-IP authorized funding for FBI agents and federal prosecutors dedicated to fighting counterfeiting and piracy, and established a grant program to help state and local law enforcement authorities combat these crimes. However, for these provisions to be meaningful and effective they must be adequately funded through the appropriations process. Studies indicate that even modest increases in government resources to investigate and prosecute these crimes can make a significant difference in stemming these staggering losses.

We are pleased that the House-passed FY10 CJS Appropriations bill makes it a priority to fund the IP enforcement provisions of the PRO-IP Act. While we understand the challenge that appropriators face in allocating limited resources, we hope that as Senate moves its CJS bill through the floor and into conference you will support the House funding level for IP enforcement.

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For these and other reasons, we urge you to **SUPPORT** this critical funding, which will enable IP-based industries to continue driving U.S. economic growth and providing quality jobs to 18 million American workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kyla Christoffersen', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Kyla Christoffersen
Policy Advocate

KC:ll