

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 8, 2013

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

We write to strongly urge the Administration to negotiate a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement that contains a high standard of protection for intellectual property.

Through hard work and ingenuity, the United States (U.S.) has become the most creative, innovative economy in the world. According to a 2012 U.S. Department of Commerce study, in 2010, intellectual property-intensive industries directly accounted for 27.1 million jobs and indirectly provided for an additional 12.9 million jobs for a total of 40.0 million jobs, or 27.7 percent of all jobs in the U.S. economy. Recognizing the need to support and protect U.S. innovation, successive administrations have consistently sought strong protections for intellectual property in trade agreements. We continue to believe that robust measures to protect copyrights, patents, trademarks and trade secrets must be included in the TPP agreement.


U.S. creative industries are a staple of American culture and our economy. Film and television production supports 2.1 million workers in the U.S. And these films, television programs and music are in demand throughout the world. However, rampant copyright theft threatens the future of our creative industries. According to the Institute for Policy Innovation, in 2007, music theft cost the U.S. economy 71,060 jobs and \$2.7 billion in annual earnings. Copyright theft is still a problem today. This is unacceptable. We need vibrant copyright provisions in our free trade agreements consistent with those in prior trade agreements to ensure that creativity is protected.


Another innovative industry is the biopharmaceutical industry. Every day, hundreds of thousands of Americans go to work trying to discover and manufacture medicines that will allow us to live longer, healthier and happier lives. In the process, they indirectly support millions of additional U.S. jobs. We should support their efforts by ensuring their intellectual property gets the protection it deserves, overseas as well as here at home, by including twelve years of data protection for biologic medicines.


Lastly, we urge protection of trade secrets in the TPP. Owners of trade secrets have spent significant resources to create and protect intangible intellectual property rights that provide competitive advantage. Such rights further investment in research and development, leading to higher quality products and technology which benefits the public. We must seek commitments from our trading partners that reflect the level of trade secret protections, as well as civil and criminal penalties for trade secret theft, that exist under U.S. laws.

We look forward to working with you to secure a TPP agreement that supports American innovation and creativity by continuing the long tradition of strong intellectual property protections.


Sincerely,



HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES
Member of Congress



THOMAS MARINO
Member of Congress



HOWARD COBLE
Member of Congress

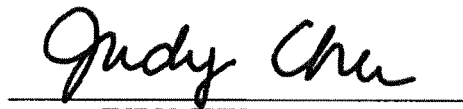

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