



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.E.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002  
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

21 October 2011

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property,  
Competition, and the Internet  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Melvin L. Watt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property,  
Competition, and the Internet  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith, Chairman Goodlatte, and Representatives Conyers and Watt,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for S. 968, the "Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act (PROTECT IP) Act," which would strengthen the ability of the United States to take action against foreign "rogue" websites that traffic in counterfeit and pirated products. These criminal sites threaten the health and safety of our members and the public we are sworn to protect.

While counterfeiting and content theft are not new, the proliferation and extent of these activities have reached unprecedented levels. Criminals have turned to the Internet, abusing its virtually unlimited distribution opportunities to expand their illicit activities and profits. Many of these sites are based overseas, yet rely on U.S. Internet Service Providers (ISPs), search engines, payment processors, and advertising services to reach U.S. consumers. Some rogue sites dupe Internet users into thinking they are legitimate, accepting major credit cards as forms of payment and featuring advertising from blue chip U.S. companies. These criminals are successfully operating booming businesses—a recent study found that just a small sample of 43 rogue sites generate over 53 billion visits a year.

The activities of infringers and counterfeiters are estimated to cost the global economy \$650 billion each year and have stolen 2.5 million jobs from G20 economies. At the local level, cities make tough choices every day and lost tax revenue means fewer police officers. Law enforcement officers ought not to have to worry about losing their jobs on account of foreign-based criminals counterfeiting goods and deceiving U.S. consumers online.

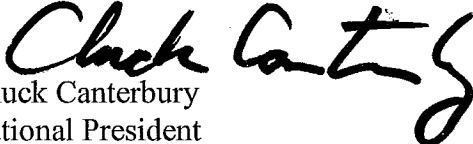
— BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION —

Counterfeit products are often of inferior quality or outright harmful design, posing a serious threat to the health, safety, and well-being of our members and the citizens we are sworn to protect. The preparedness and safety of our members depend on sound, reliable equipment. Counterfeit batteries, gloves, brake pads, and other equipment put us and the public at risk. Counterfeit pharmaceuticals, tooth paste, and footwear put our seniors and our children at risk. Organized gangs use these profits from counterfeit DVDs to fund other criminal enterprises and fuel violent crime in our communities here at home.

Law enforcement needs the authority to enlist the help of other players in the Internet ecosystem to cut these sites off from the American marketplace. Legislation targeting these foreign rogue websites will encourage Internet users to find legitimate sources for goods and content, ensure that counterfeiters and pirates can no longer profit from this clearly illegal activity, and stem the flow of dangerous counterfeit goods into the supply chains on which our members depend.

We are pleased that Congress has turned their attention to this major problem with the introduction of S. 968 in the Senate and the planned introduction of companion legislation in the House. We urge both chambers to make the enactment of rogue site legislation a priority in this Congress. On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, we thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

  
Chuck Canterbury  
National President

cc: The Honorable John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Eric I. Cantor, Majority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, Minority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives