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May 16, 2011

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Congressmen:

We write to commend you for your attention to the serious issue of the counterfeiting and piracy of U.S. products occurring on rogue websites, and to ask for your legislative support in addressing these extremely harmful activities.

Today, enforcement against theft of intellectual property (IP) is more important than ever. The activities of infringers and counterfeiters are estimated to cost the global economy \$650 billion each year and have robbed 2.5 million jobs from the G20 economies. Moreover, counterfeit products are often of inferior quality or outright harmful design, which poses a serious and very real threat to the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens.

While counterfeiting and piracy are not new, the proliferation and extent of these activities is unprecedented. Criminals have turned to the Internet, abusing its virtually unlimited distribution opportunities, to expand their illicit activities and profits. With the Internet, these criminals have access not just to all of the 50 states, but also to the territories, such as Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. And they are succeeding; a recent study found that just a small sample of 43 rogue sites generated over 53 billion visits a year.

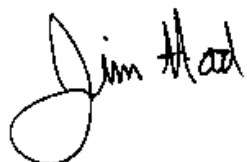
A growing number of rogue websites are based overseas, presenting law enforcement with unique enforcement challenges. We are therefore extremely pleased that in Washington, D.C., both the House and Senate have turned their attention to this major problem. Legislation is needed to disrupt the counterfeiting and pirate business model by cutting those sites off from the American marketplace. This narrowly tailored response to clearly illegal activity would enable effective action against the worst of the worst counterfeiters and pirates online.

We urge Congress to make the introduction and enactment of rogue site legislation a top priority this year. On behalf of all of us and the citizens

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of our respective states, we thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Respectfully,



Jim Hood
Attorney General of Mississippi
NAAG Intellectual Property Committee Co-
Chair



Rob McKenna
Attorney General of Washington
NAAG Intellectual Property Committee Co-
Chair



Roy Cooper
Attorney General of North Carolina
NAAG President



Luther Strange
Attorney General of Alabama



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Attorney General of Alaska



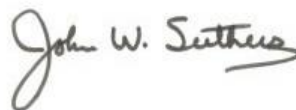
Fepulea'i Arthur Ripley, Jr.
Attorney General of American Samoa



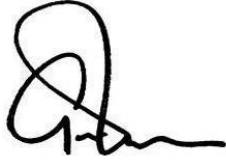
Tom Horne
Attorney General of Arizona



Dustin McDaniel
Attorney General of Arkansas



John Suthers
Attorney General of Colorado



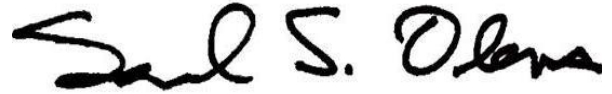
George Jepsen
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Pamela Bondi
Attorney General of Florida



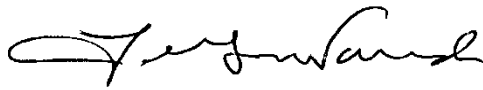
Samuel S. Olens
Attorney General of Georgia



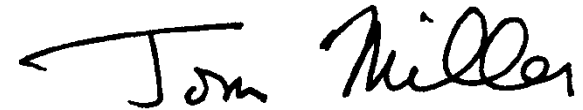
Leonardo M. Rapadas
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Attorney General of Idaho



Tom Miller
Attorney General of Iowa

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Derek L. Schmidt
Attorney General of Kansas



John Conway
Attorney General of Kentucky



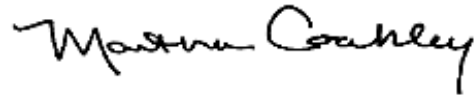
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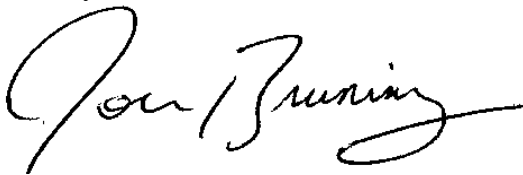
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Catherine Cortez Masto
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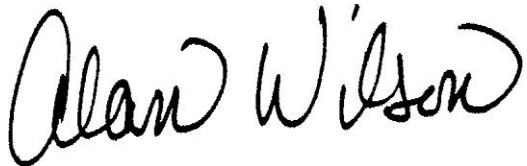
Wayne Stenehjem
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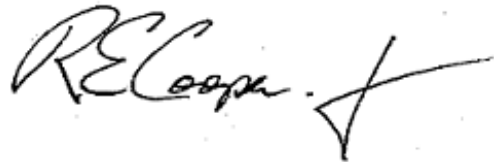
E. Scott Pruitt
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Peter F. Kilmartin
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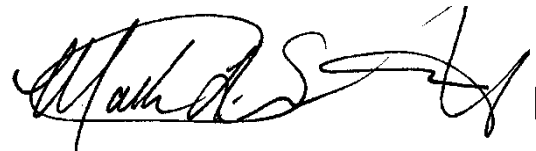
Alan Wilson
Attorney General of South Carolina



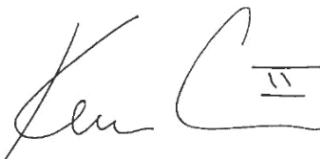
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.
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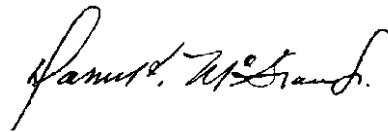
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