



Resolution Supporting Intellectual Property (IP) Rights and Protections to Promote Productivity, Competitiveness, Jobs, and Public Health

Intellectual property (IP) rights and innovation are primary drivers of job creation and America's economic growth.

WHEREAS, IP companies in manufacturing and nonmanufacturing sectors employ slightly more than 19 million full and part-time workers and accounted for 16.3% of U.S. full and part-time employment; and

WHEREAS, in the latest U.S. official data, IP companies in the manufacturing and nonmanufacturing sectors generated nearly \$7.7 trillion in gross output, accounting for 33.1% of the total U.S. gross output; and

WHEREAS, IP-intensive industries pay their workers higher salaries with the annual salary of all workers in IP-intensive industries averaging 60% higher than workers at similar levels in non-IP-intensive industries.

WHEREAS, IP-intensive industries drive American exports accounting for approximately 60% of total U.S. exports.

WHEREAS, given the important role that IP plays in sustaining a long-term economic growth, policymakers should give high priority to fostering innovation and protecting intellectual property; and

WHEREAS, protecting and enforcing the IP rights of businesses are critical to advancing global economic recovery, driving competitiveness and export growth, and creating high-quality jobs; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures believes that widespread efforts to promote innovation and intellectual property protection are critical to improving the nation's long-term competitiveness in a global market, and to achieving certain socioeconomic improvements in the quality of American life; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the National Conference of State Legislatures calls upon all levels of governments to work cooperatively with the private sector, nonprofits, and academia to create, develop and implement robust pro-IP awareness and enforcement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the National Conference of State Legislatures supports efforts to ensure the IPEC has sufficient staff, budget, and authority to fulfill the obligations and achieve the goals outlined in the PRO-IP Act and the National IP Strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the National Conference of State Legislatures support robust IP protection and enforcement provisions in trade agreements and their implementation (specifically the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP)/ KORUS); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the National Conference of State Legislatures supports a clear plan to shut down the top rogue websites globally that are willfully selling counterfeit goods and facilitating digital theft; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States and all members of the 112th Congress.

Expires August 2012

<http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabID=773&tabs=854,15,690#690>