

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2003

FIGHT FILM AND MUSIC PIRACY
JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-PIRACY CAUCUS

Dear Colleague,

America is the world's largest creator, producer and exporter of copyrighted materials. Unfortunately, this vibrant sector of the U.S. economy is at great risk due to widespread piracy – the unauthorized reproduction, distribution and sale of U.S.-made movies, music, videogames and other creative works. As Members of the House and Senate with a strong interest in protecting American intellectual property and reducing the scourge of piracy abroad, we ask you to join us in forming a congressional caucus dedicated to working with our international trade partners to secure the enactment of strong copyright laws and the vigilant enforcement of those laws.

The advent of digital technology holds the promise of a golden age for lovers of movies, music, video games and other forms of entertainment. More new devices for watching, listening to, recording, sharing and saving music and movies have emerged in the last decade than in the previous 100 years. And these technologies are a key to American economic growth: indeed, the combined copyright industries – movies, home video and television programming, music, books, video games and software – generate more revenues than any other single manufacturing sector, including automobiles and auto parts, aircraft and agriculture. They are responsible for more than five percent of the nation's GDP. The film industry alone has a surplus balance of trade with every country in the world.

Disturbingly, however, an explosion in piracy and a diminution in copyright protection have accompanied these exciting new advances in entertainment technology. Organized crime has become heavily involved in foreign DVD and CD piracy. Criminals are using the same formidable distribution network and resources that were developed for drug trafficking and arms smuggling. The result, in these and other countries, is a virtual evisceration of the legitimate market for American entertainment.

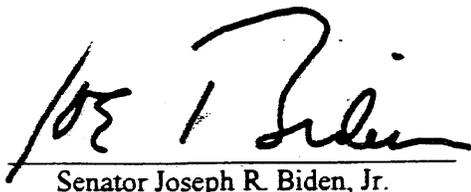
If our entertainment industries are to flourish – and if we are to defend the rights of creators and distributors to protect and be compensated for their works – they need our help. Our bipartisan Caucus will work to support congressional efforts to deal with the problem of piracy and Administration efforts to obtain strong intellectual property protections in the context of international trade agreements. The following are examples of activities that will involve the Congressional International Anti-Piracy Caucus:

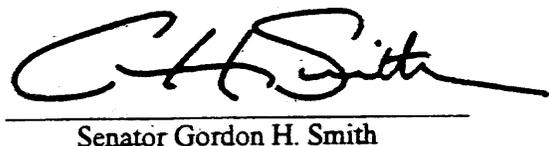
- Briefings for Congressional delegations traveling to countries with significant piracy problems
- Staff and member briefings and forums on international intellectual property protection and piracy
- Demonstrations of new technologies and products designed to improve consumers' entertainment experiences and to reduce piracy
- Working closely with the committees of jurisdiction in the House and Senate on related hearings and legislation

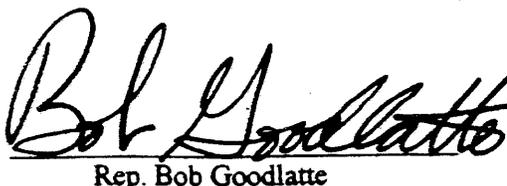
You can demonstrate your support for our efforts to stop digital piracy by joining the Congressional International Anti-Piracy Caucus. To join, please call Jonathan Meyer of Senator Biden's office at 4-6819, Wally Hsueh of Senator Smith's office at 4-3753, Shelley Husband of Representative Goodlatte's office at 5-5431, or Phil Tahtakran of Representative Schiff's office at 5-4176.

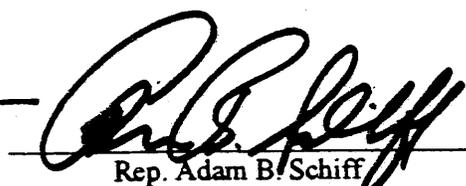
Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,


Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.


Senator Gordon H. Smith


Rep. Bob Goodlatte


Rep. Adam B. Schiff