

The Congressional International Anti-Piracy Caucus

Senator Gordon H. Smith, Co-Chair
Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Co-Chair



Congressman Bob Goodlatte, Co-Chair
Congressman Adam B. Schiff, Co-Chair

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German Parliament Follows Our Lead with Anti-Piracy Caucus

Dear Colleague:

Last month, we launched the Congressional International Anti-Piracy Caucus, with over 65 members in the House and Senate. This bicameral, bipartisan organization is dedicated to working with America's international trade partners to secure the enactment of strong copyright laws and vigilant enforcement of those laws.

The U.S. is by far the largest creator, producer and exporter of copyrighted works, but other countries are beginning to understand that intellectual property protection is important to their own national interests. Soon after our launch, the German CDU/CSU Bundestag faction announced that it is setting up its own version of an anti-piracy caucus modeled on the U.S. example. The following paragraph came from a press announcement of the German caucus:

"The CDU/CSU faction is concerned about the increasing incidence of intellectual property theft. Without sufficient protection of intellectual products, Germany's music, literature and movie industry threatens to waste away. Disregard for the intellectual property of artists and authors has led to revenue collapses, job losses and tax deficits in these sectors, resulting in reduced innovation and the thwarting of creativity, especially of up-and-coming artists. We wish to change this fatal development in the interests of our country, the creative industry in Germany, and the people who wish to live for and on their art and creativity."

You can help ensure that the U.S. remains the leader in this important economic area by joining the International Anti-Piracy Caucus today. Our caucus is committed to working with our international representatives and with foreign governments to ensure that copyrighted works, and especially American copyrighted works, are protected from piracy. The Caucus will also support efforts to deal with the problem of piracy by obtaining strong copyright protections in the context of international trade agreements.

To join the Congressional International Anti-Piracy Caucus, please call Wally Hsueh of Senator Smith's office at 4-3753, Jonathan Meyer of Senator Biden's office at 4-6819, 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