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Statement of International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) on introduction of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation

Washington— The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) applauds today’s introduction of TPA legislation, and urges its swift enactment. Our workforce and our economy need trade agreements that effectively open foreign markets for products and services that represent the fruit of American creativity and ingenuity; and this bill is a huge step forward on the path toward such pacts.

The U.S. copyright industries are especially pleased to see that this bill, like the one considered in the last Congress, stresses the priority of “ensuring that rights holders have the legal and technological means to control the use of their works through the Internet and to prevent the unauthorized use of their works.” This is a critical ingredient for crafting trade deals that enable increased exports and foreign sales of U.S. music, movies, videogames, books, and journals in an increasingly digital marketplace. Such deals will preserve and promote good jobs here in America.

We congratulate Chairman Hatch, Senator Wyden, and Chairman Ryan for their leadership in advancing this vital legislation, and call on their colleagues in both Houses to move expeditiously to approve the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015.

About the IIPA: IIPA is a private sector coalition, formed in 1984, of trade associations representing U.S. copyright-based industries working to improve international protection and enforcement of copyrighted materials and to open foreign markets closed by piracy and other market access barriers. IIPA’s five member associations represent over 3,200 U.S. companies producing and distributing materials protected by copyright laws throughout the world. These include entertainment software including interactive games for video game consoles, handheld devices, personal computers and the Internet, and educational software; motion pictures, television programming, DVDs and home video and digital representations of audiovisual works; music, records, CDs, and audiocassettes; and fiction and non-fiction books, education instructional and assessment materials, and professional and scholarly journals, databases and software in all formats. Members of the IIPA include [Association of American Publishers \(www.publishers.org\)](http://www.publishers.org), [Entertainment Software Association \(www.theesa.com\)](http://www.theesa.com), [Independent Film & Television Alliance \(www.ifta-online.org\)](http://www.ifta-online.org), [Motion Picture Association of America \(www.mpa.org\)](http://www.mpa.org), and [Recording Industry Association of America \(www.riaa.com\)](http://www.riaa.com).

In December 2014, IIPA released the latest update of its economic report, *Copyright Industries in the U.S. Economy: The 2014 Report*, prepared by Stephen E. Siwek of Economists Inc, documenting that the “core” copyright industries in the U.S. generated over \$1.1 trillion dollars of economic output in 2013, accounting for 6.71% of the entire economy. The core copyright industries also employed nearly 5.5 million workers in 2013, accounting for over 4% of the entire U.S. workforce, and nearly 5% of total private employment in the U.S. These workers earn on average 34% higher wages than other U.S. employees. The core copyright industries also outpaced the U.S. economy, growing at 3.9% between 2009 and 2013, while the U.S. economy grew by 2.25%. Finally, the report highlights the positive contribution of selected copyright sectors to the U.S. overall trade balance. In 2013, these sectors contributed \$156 billion in foreign sales and exports, exceeding that of many other industry sectors, including: chemicals, aerospace products and parts, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals and medicines. Studies such as this amply demonstrate the contribution of creators, and the copyright-based industries that support them, to the economy.