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

Washington—The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) commends President Obama for his signing into law TPA legislation today, and congratulates the President, Senators Hatch and Wyden, and Congressman Ryan, as well as other Congressional supporters, for this bipartisan effort. By facilitating completion of trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, this law will help create new opportunities to invest in innovative works for consumers, expand foreign markets, preserve and promote good jobs here in America, and establish a more level playing field around the world for U.S. music, movies, videogames, books, and journals.

The newly enacted law gives the President the authority to ensure that the U.S. copyright industries have the necessary tools to increase exports and foreign sales of creative products in an increasingly digital marketplace. We urge the President to follow through with TPA’s mandate to negotiate trade deals “ensuring that standards of protection and enforcement keep pace with technological developments, and in particular ensuring that rightholders have the legal and technological means to control the use of their works through the Internet and other global communication media, and to prevent the unauthorized use of their works.”

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), Entertainment Software Association (www.thesea.com), Independent Film & Television Alliance (www.ifta-online.org), Motion Picture Association of America (www.mpaa.org), and Recording Industry Association of America (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.