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## IIPA Supports USTR Focus on Challenges in Major Copyright Markets for U.S. Creative Industries in 2026 Special 301 Report

**Washington, D.C.** — The following is a statement from the International Intellectual Property Alliance® (IIPA®) on yesterday's release of the 2026 Special 301 Report:

"IIPA® celebrates the release of the 2026 Special 301 Report by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), a tool of continued importance for advancing U.S. trade priorities and protecting American creative industries worldwide. IIPA thanks Ambassador Jamieson Greer, the USTR team, and their interagency partners for their ongoing efforts to expand opportunities for American creators and workers.

"The Report continues to spotlight persistent challenges in foreign markets—including limited market access, weak enforcement, and inadequate legal protections—that hinder U.S. rights holders. By identifying these barriers, the Special 301 process helps drive progress toward more open, fair, and competitive global markets for creative content.

"Of significance, this year's Report addresses the challenges posed by artificial intelligence stating, 'The United States supports the development of legal frameworks for AI development that ensure copyrights are respected and supports voluntary licensing regimes for the use of copyrighted works.' IIPA is grateful the Report spotlights this emerging critical issue.

"IIPA further appreciates that the Report focuses on critical industry concerns such as stream ripping, ineffective collective management systems that limit fair compensation, and gaps in enforcement against online infringement and digital piracy and welcomes the Report's reaffirmation of the importance of freedom of contract, ensuring copyright owners can fully benefit from their creative works.

"The annual Special 301 review has long served as a cornerstone of U.S. trade policy and a vehicle for the United States and its trading partners to improve the environment for creative content worldwide. Following this year's report, IIPA is eager to continue working alongside USTR and the U.S. government to encourage further outcomes demonstrative of the value book publishing, motion picture, music, and video game sectors bring to the U.S. economy and job growth.

On January 28, IIPA made a detailed submission to USTR with its recommendations for the 2026 Special 301 Report. IIPA's full submission can be found at <https://www.iipa.org/files/uploads/2026/01/IIPA-2026-Special-301-Comments-for-Publication-2.pdf>."

**About the IIPA:** IIPA is a private sector coalition, formed in 1984, of trade associations representing U.S. copyright-based industries working to improve copyright protection and enforcement abroad and to open foreign markets closed by piracy and other market access barriers. Members of the IIPA include Association of American Publishers ([publishers.org](http://publishers.org)), Entertainment Software Association ([www.theesa.com](http://www.theesa.com)), Motion Picture Association ([www.motionpictures.org](http://www.motionpictures.org)), and Recording Industry Association of America ([www.riaa.com](http://www.riaa.com)). Collectively, IIPA's four member associations represent over 3,100 U.S. companies producing and distributing copyrightable content. The materials produced and/or distributed by IIPA-member companies include: video games for consoles, handheld devices, personal computers, and online; motion pictures and television programming distributed in all formats (including cinema, television, online, mobile, DVD, etc.); music recorded in all formats (from digital files to CDs and vinyl) for streaming and other online services, as well as broadcasting, public performance, and synchronization in audiovisual materials; and fiction and non-fiction books, educational, instructional and assessment materials, and professional and scholarly journals, and databases. In February 2025, IIPA released the latest update of its comprehensive economic report, *Copyright Industries in the U.S. Economy: The 2024 Report*, prepared by Secretariat Economists. (2024 Report). According to the 2024 Report, the "core" copyright industries in the United States generated over \$2 trillion of economic output in 2023, accounting for 7.66% of the entire economy, and employed approximately 11.6 million workers in 2023, accounting for 5.43% of the entire U.S. workforce and 6.1% of total private employment in the U.S. The jobs created by these industries are well-paying jobs; for example, copyright industry workers earn on average 51% higher wages than other U.S. workers. The report also broke new ground by measuring the copyright industries' significant contributions to the U.S. digital economy, as that concept was defined by the federal government. In 2023, the core

copyright industries accounted for 51.39% of the U.S. digital economy and 49.1% of U.S. digital economy employment, even though the government's digital economy definition does not encompass the full range of the copyright industries' digital activities. In addition, according to the 2024 Report, the core copyright industries outpaced the U.S. economy, growing at an aggregate annual rate of 6.69% between 2020 and 2022, while the U.S. economy grew by 3.41%. When factoring in other industries that contribute to the copyright economy (which together comprise what the 2024 Report calls the "total" copyright industries), the numbers are even more compelling. Additionally, the 2024 Report highlights the positive contribution of selected copyright sectors to the U.S. overall trade balance. Given the importance of digital delivery to the copyright-based industries, this sector has the potential to multiply its export revenues if our trading partners provide strong copyright-protective environments. In 2023, these sectors contributed \$272.6 billion in foreign sales and exports, exceeding that of many other industry sectors, including chemicals, pharmaceutical and medicines, agricultural products, aerospace products and parts, and food and kindred products. The full economic report is available at [https://www.iipa.org/files/uploads/2025/02/IIPA-Copyright-Industries-in-the-U.S.-Economy-Report-2024\\_ONLINE\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.iipa.org/files/uploads/2025/02/IIPA-Copyright-Industries-in-the-U.S.-Economy-Report-2024_ONLINE_FINAL.pdf).