

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The following is a statement on behalf of the Member companies of the Motion Picture Association of America thanking the Vice President and other Members of the Obama Administration for hosting a meeting on protection of intellectual property:

“We are grateful to Vice President Biden, Attorney General Holder, Secretary Napolitano, Secretary Locke and the other government officials for inviting representatives of America’s copyright industries to talk about the importance of protecting American jobs by preventing the theft of creative content and enforcing laws against piracy.

We especially appreciate the Vice President’s long history of support for the protection of intellectual property, and thank him for his continued leadership defending American workers and businesses.

Our message today was simple. Intellectual property brings to America’s future what iron and steel brought to our past – jobs, exports and economic strength. The creative industries not only give consumers and audiences great music, movies, television shows, books, games, knowledge and entertainment, they create good-paying jobs in every state, support the growth of small businesses and generate millions in tax revenues.

The copyright industries and related businesses employ nearly 12 million workers nationwide. But copyright theft puts those jobs at risk. But with more than \$25 billion lost in piracy each year, nearly 375,000 jobs are eliminated as well, costing American workers \$16 billion in earnings. No business can long sustain itself if forced to compete against the widespread and unlawful distribution of its products.

Our work with the Obama Administration to prevent the theft of creative content is not about protecting an old way of doing business; it is about fostering new business models and encouraging the growth of American business and labor opportunities. We are working hard to make creative content easily available to consumers along every digital platform imaginable and at an affordable price. This will benefit workers, businesses, consumers and the economy. But we will not be able to create and grow the digital marketplace if there aren’t some sensible procedures in place that inhibit the theft of creative content.

We believe this meeting today is an important step forward to stem the tide of content theft. We are confident that the Vice President and the Obama Administration recognize just how crucial America’s intellectual property is to our nation’s leadership in the global economy.”

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For more information, contact:

*Howard S. Gantman
Vice President, Corporate Communications
Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA)
1600 "Eye" Street NW
Washington, DC 20006*