



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USTR GLOBAL IP REPORT ‘SOBERING REMINDER’ OF WORK TO BE DONE, GLICKMAN SAYS

WASHINGTON—An annual report on worldwide intellectual property rights released today provides important leadership for dealing with the global scourge of piracy, said Dan Glickman, Chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America. The report, issued by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), outlines the U.S. government’s road map for addressing intellectual property concerns in the coming year and identifies countries particularly lacking in adequate and effective IP rights and enforcement.

“Today’s report indicates the scope of global piracy and serves as a sobering reminder of the challenges ahead. The strength and competitiveness of our economy is powered by our ideas and creativity. It is our intellectual property that fuels this economy’s growth and it is imperative that this economic driver is protected from theft both at home and abroad,” Glickman said, expressing appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Washington agencies and U.S. embassy officials.

“MPAA remains encouraged by the Administration’s recognition of the serious problems that result from the rampant theft of intellectual property and looks forward to continued cooperation with the U.S. government to raise awareness of the contribution of intellectual property to global competitiveness and to augment IP enforcement efforts around the world.

“USTR officials are with us on the front lines in dealing with foreign governments in strengthening IP laws and enforcement,” Glickman added, “and we are deeply appreciative of the commitment and dedication that they bring to this effort. Their help is invaluable to our efforts.”

CHINA

China is, by virtually any and every measure, one of the world’s largest suppliers of, and marketplace for, pirate goods. It is MPAA’s hope that through the process of adjudicating and settling the WTO complaints the U.S. government has lodged against China, the Chinese will reform their legal system so that it is a deterrent to those who engage in criminal piracy on a commercial scale, and that the resulting reforms will enable officials to take effective actions. MPAA firmly believes that China must also meet its WTO market access commitments to ensure that legitimate U.S. businesses can compete fairly in a fair market.

RUSSIA

MPAA applauds the USTR’s decision to keep Russia on the Priority Watch List and to conduct an Out-of-Cycle Review, as MPAA’s long-held position has been that Russia’s copyright laws and enforcement systems must be consistent with the WTO TRIPS Agreement before Russia is permitted to accede to the WTO. However, MPAA believes that the Out-of-Cycle Review announcement should have included a date certain for conclusion, particularly given the June 1 deadline for several legal and regulatory reforms within the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Agreement.

CANADA

Another country of serious concern to the MPAA and its members is Canada. It is MPAA's view that Canada should have been elevated to the Priority Watch List. Canada is now, and has been for some time, a haven for camcord thieves who are often linked to highly organized criminal networks that profit handsomely from their activities. This is of utmost concern given that Canada is a major trading partner and should be a global leader in IP protections.

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Background -- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative released today its "Special 301" annual report on the adequacy and effectiveness of intellectual property rights (IPR) protection in countries around the world. The report identifies those countries that fail to adequately and effectively protect IPR and that deny fair and equitable market access for persons that rely on IPR protection, pursuant to the Trade Act of 1974. Special 301 also provides for the imposition of trade sanctions and the removal of trade preferences where countries do not remedy such deficiencies.

About the MPAA

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) serves as the voice and advocate of the American motion picture, home video and television industries from its offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Its members include: Buena Vista Pictures Distribution; Paramount Pictures; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios LLLP; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

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