



May 1, 2019

Representative Mike Quigley
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
FSGG Subcommittee
2458 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Tom Graves
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
FSGG Subcommittee
2078 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Quigley and Ranking Member Graves,

We write to express our support for providing the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC) with sufficient resources and independence to carry out its important mission by, for the first time ever, funding the IPEC as a stand-alone line item in the President's budget recommendation.

The Copyright Alliance is a non-profit, non-partisan public interest and educational organization representing the copyright interests of over 1.8 million individual creators and over 13,000 organizations in the United States, across the spectrum of copyright disciplines. The Copyright Alliance is dedicated to advocating policies that promote and preserve the value of copyright, and to protecting the rights of creators and innovators. The individual creators and organizations that we represent rely on copyright law to protect their creativity, efforts, and investments in the creation and distribution of new copyrighted works for the public to enjoy.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of over three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local Chambers and industry associations dedicated to promoting and defending America's free enterprise system. The Chamber's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) represents a broad spectrum of IP-intensive companies and associations, and leads the Chamber's advocacy for strong, enforceable IP rights, and a worldwide effort to promote IP policies that support innovation and creativity and drive economic growth.

All told, the US copyright industries contribute more than \$1.3 trillion to GDP and employ 5.7 million Americans. A strong copyright system that rewards creativity and discourages piracy—domestically and abroad—is essential to a healthy and vibrant economy. The IPEC plays a vital role in supporting a strong copyright system by coordinating the intellectual property enforcement efforts across federal agencies and pressing for strong IP enforcement in major markets overseas.

We understand that for the first time, the President's budget recommendation will fund the IPEC as a stand-alone line item, recommending an appropriation of \$1 million for FY2020. We fully support the decision to provide IPEC with budgetary independence and to provide it

with additional independence and status within the Executive Office of the President. However, a recommendation of \$1 million is substantially below the Office's funding level for FY2019 (as well as prior years). Given the significant focus that the Congress and Administration have placed on global IP enforcement, reducing the Office's budget is unwarranted and unwise. In fact, we believe that the IPEC more than warrants a modest increase in funding for FY2020 and recommend the budget be increased slightly to (at least) \$2 million per year. This increase would provide the IPEC with the resources it needs to effectively carry out its mission. We also recommend authorizing the IPEC to set aside a percentage of its total appropriations—e.g. 20%—as no-year funding so the IPEC can plan for and continue to operate during interruptions in appropriations.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Keith Kupferschmid
CEO
Copyright Alliance



Jonathan Weinberger
SVP
Global Innovation Policy Center

cc:

Representative José Serrano
Representative Matt Cartwright
Representative Sanford Bishop Jr.
Representative Norma Torres
Representative Charlie Crist
Representative Ann Kirkpatrick
Representative Mark Amodei
Representative Chris Stewart
Representative David Joyce