

Coalition Against Online Video Piracy



December 13, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Conyers:

On behalf of the U.S.- based members of the Coalition Against Online Video Piracy (the “Coalition”), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 3261, the “Stop Online Piracy Act.” The Coalition is a group of representatives of worldwide sports organizations, entertainment companies, telecasters and trade associations concerned about online video piracy. From Internet sites and services, television channels from all over the world are available without authorization from rights holders, in disregard of fundamental copyright and broadcast rights. The Coalition operates as a forum through which organizations can share information, resources, experiences and strategies to stop this breed of intellectual property rights piracy.

It is our experience that rogue websites, including foreign-based websites that pirate television broadcasts, have grown increasingly sophisticated in both appearance and operation, doing their best to mimic legitimate content delivery sites and deceive consumers into believing they are legitimate. Such websites undermine the growth and stability of many industries, including ours, and the American jobs that they support. We firmly believe that The Stop Online Piracy Act would provide valuable and necessary tools to help address such illegal websites and protect the U.S. economy.

We thank you for the priority you have placed on protecting copyrighted works, and we look forward to seeing this important legislation enacted.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Mellis
Senior Vice President and General
Counsel, MLB Advanced Media
on behalf of the U.S.- based members of
the Coalition Against Online Video Piracy

cc:

Rep. Mark E. Amodei
Rep. John Barrow
Rep. Karen Bass
Rep. Howard L. Berman
Rep. Marsha Blackburn
Rep. Mary Bono Mack
Rep. John R. Carter
Rep. Steve Chabot
Rep. Judy Chu
Rep. Theodore E. Deutch
Rep. Elton Gallegly
Rep. Bob Goodlatte
Rep. Tim Griffin
Rep. Tim Holden
Rep. Peter T. King
Rep. John B. Larson
Rep. Ben Ray Lujan
Rep. Tom Marino
Rep. Alan Nunnelee
Rep. William L. Owens
Rep. Dennis Ross
Rep. Steve Scalise
Rep. Adam B. Schiff
Rep. Lee Terry
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Rep. Melvin L. Watt