



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 14, 2011

STATEMENT FROM COPYRIGHT ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANDRA AISTARS

RE: House Judiciary Committee's Manager's Amendment to the Stop Online Piracy Act

WASHINGTON—Copyright Alliance Executive Director Sandra Aistars made the following statement regarding the House Judiciary Committee's Manager's Amendment to the Stop Online Piracy Act released in advance of Committee mark-up scheduled for Thursday:

"The Copyright Alliance applauds the work of the House Judiciary Committee and its Chairman Lamar Smith for efforts to advance legislation that will protect artists and creators from the economic harm of offshore rogue websites. The impact of intellectual property theft by rogue sites is felt in countless ways and across every creative genre, from romance authors, to church and gospel music songwriters, to independent filmmakers. For these creators, whose work is being rendered economically meaningless by rampant infringement, the Stop Online Piracy Act represents welcome action by Congress to protect American businesses and jobs.

"While much hyperbole by opponents has surrounded this legislation, reasonable and constructive voices have been at the table working to ensure the bill achieves its intended purpose while not opening the door to unintended consequences. The Manager's Amendment reflects this constructive dialogue and re-affirms the bill's objective, to protect American businesses, entrepreneurs and consumers from the consequences of massive intellectual property theft and unsafe products. The revised language:

- ? · Applies only to foreign sites "primarily designed or operated " to infringe by distributing counterfeit goods or complete copies of copyrighted works for commercial advantage or private financial gain;
- ? · Courts are directed
 - ○ not to impose restraints on free speech when enforcing claims;
 - ○ not to alter the operation of copyright or trademark laws, including the Digital Millennium Copyright Act with respect to U.S sites;
 - ○ not to impose any duty to monitor activities of users on a network or service; and
 - ○ to limit orders to ensure the security and functioning of the domain name system is not adversely affected;
- ? · Compliance obligations of Internet search engines, ad networks and payment processors are limited only to those that are technically feasible and commercially reasonable, and the least restrictive means available to achieve the goals of the bill.

"The Copyright Alliance supports the Manager's Amendment to the Stop Online Piracy Act and urges the House Judiciary Committee to approve it Thursday for full House consideration."

ABOUT THE COPYRIGHT ALLIANCE

The Copyright Alliance is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization dedicated to the value of copyright as an agent for creativity, jobs and growth. For more information, please visit www.copyrightalliance.org.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.copyrightalliance.org

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