

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supports provisions within H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY 2010-2011, to advance intellectual property (IP) enforcement and to facilitate travel to the United States.

U.S. industries that depend on IP are estimated to account for over \$5 trillion of the gross domestic product and more than half of all exports. Section 329 recognizes that the ability of U.S. businesses to increase exports and remain competitive in foreign markets relies heavily upon adequate IP protection by U.S. trading partners. Deploying attachés to address the lack of IP protection in certain countries would help expand markets to export U.S. products, which is critical to creating quality U.S. jobs and growing our economy.

The Chamber also supports the amendment offered by Reps. Rick Larsen and Mark Kirk, which urges the administration to protect intellectual property rights as the U.S. negotiates an international treaty on climate change. Strong IP protections provide an important incentive to accelerate growth in the clean energy technology sector. Including exceptions to IP protections could undermine future research and development of clean technologies and hinder the growth of U.S. jobs and exports associated with them.

Additionally, the Chamber supports Section 236 which would enable the Secretary of State to develop and conduct a pilot program for the processing of tourist visas using secure remote videoconferencing. This concept was an initial recommendation of the Secure Borders Open Doors Advisory Committee (SBODAC). The Chamber is co-chair of the Visa Policy and Processing Working Group of SBODAC and believes that passage of Section 236 is an important step in ensuring this initiative becomes a reality. Limited access to U.S. consulates in many parts of the world makes travel to the United States more challenging. With the United States seeing fewer international visitors than before September 11, 2001, making the application process for tourist visas more accessible is an important step to increasing travel to the United States.

The Chamber, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, strongly supports these provisions, and for these reasons, supports passage of H.R. 2410.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten