

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to encourage you to prioritize the nomination and funding of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC), which was created by legislation we sponsored in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress and codified in Public Law 110-403. Intellectual property rights promote innovation and creativity, long recognized as major drivers of the United States economy. Protecting intellectual property is therefore both a law enforcement objective and an important component of our economy recovery efforts.


The legislation we introduced last Congress took a comprehensive approach to intellectual property protection by providing government at the national, State, and local levels with the tools, resources, and coordinative structures necessary to combat intellectual property theft. Among other things, it created an inter-agency intellectual property enforcement advisory committee, chaired by the new IPEC. Congress created this committee in response to a demonstrated need to prioritize and coordinate intellectual property enforcement efforts both among and within the relevant Departments and agencies. The IPEC can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Administration's efforts to protect American intellectual property, but only if placed in an appropriate position of authority within the Executive Office of the President and given adequate funding to fulfill its Congressionally mandated objectives.

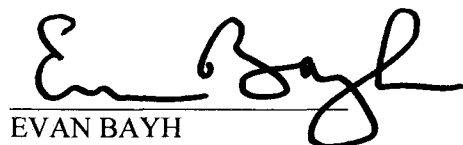
The effective implementation of the Act is an important step in creating jobs and improving inter-agency coordination. We, therefore, urge you to nominate the IPEC and ensure that it is prioritized and properly resourced within the White House.

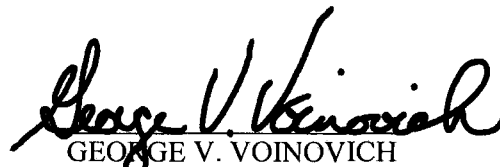
Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to protect intellectual property rights.

Respectfully,

  
PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator

  
ARLEN SPECTER  
United States Senator

  
EVAN BAYH  
United States Senator

  
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH  
United States Senator