

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

January 18, 2012

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector and region, strongly supports S.968, the "Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011." This legislation would help put foreign criminal rogue sites out of the business of stealing American jobs, hampering America's economic growth, and exploiting American consumers. The Chamber believes the Senate should consider and pass this crucial legislation in the near term.

More than 19 million Americans are employed in intellectual property-intensive industries. Unfortunately, these jobs are being threatened by websites dedicated to the theft of America's most innovative and creative products. Every day, foreign criminal rogue websites dupe consumers, steal jobs, and siphon millions of dollars from the U.S. economy. However, because these foreign rogue websites are outside the jurisdictional reach of U.S. law enforcement, they operate with impunity. This legislation would address this shortcoming of current law.

S.968 has been subject to an open and bipartisan Judiciary Committee process, and the Chamber urges the full Senate to fully debate and pass this important measure. Recent announcements by sponsors of the legislation have made clear that important issues of internet operation, security, and freedom will be addressed by a manager's amendment, which will modify provisions of S. 968 dealing with blocking of rogue sites. The amended legislation is a more narrowly tailored approach designed to target the worst offenders.

The Chamber strongly urges you to support S.968 and may consider votes on, or in relation to, S.968 – including procedural votes, and any weakening amendments – in our annual *How They Voted* scorecard.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten