

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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October 12, 2011

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property,
Competition, and the Internet
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

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, would like to applaud you for introducing H.R. 2511, the "Innovative Design Protection and Piracy Prevention Act" (IDPPPA).

The promotion and protection of intellectual property rights are vital catalysts to economic growth and job creation in the U.S. Like so many other industries, the American fashion and apparel industry's competitiveness in the global marketplace rests on its ability to be creative and innovative. There are more than 14,000 companies in the fashion and apparel industry in the U.S., directly employing approximately 4 million Americans and indirectly employing countless others. IDPPPA offers a practical, narrowly tailored, approach to secure important yet limited intellectual property (IP) protection for truly unique, innovative, and original fashion designs. Moreover, IDPPPA would incentivize the creativity of American designers and stimulate innovation in the fashion and apparel industry, and would deter rampant counterfeiting and piracy.

IDPPPA enjoys the support of a broad-based cross-section of the fashion and apparel industry including: large multinationals and small private labels; young, 'up and coming' designers and established brand owners; manufacturers and suppliers, and high end luxury goods makers and everyday apparel and footwear manufactures. By helping to provide stronger protection for fashion design in America that is already available in Europe, India, and Japan, this legislation would ensure the continued competitiveness of the American fashion and apparel industry to deliver fashionable and affordable clothing and accessories to consumers.

It is of paramount importance to ensure that legislation is carefully crafted so that it does not present compliance burdens or expose companies to the threat of frivolous law suits. We commend the progress you and your colleagues have made to ensure IDPPA is crafted to avoid these unintended consequences.

The Chamber applauds you for your continued commitment to the protection of creativity and IP as reflected in IDPPPA—and therefore, for your commitment to protecting American jobs. The Chamber supports H.R. 2511 and urges the committee to report this measure to the full House as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Josten" being the most prominent parts.

R. Bruce Josten

Cc: Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary