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*Nebraska Attorney General*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**James McPherson**

May 16, 2011

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Congressmen:

We write to commend you for your attention to the serious issue of the counterfeiting and piracy of U.S. products occurring on rogue websites, and to ask for your legislative support in addressing these extremely harmful activities.

Today, enforcement against theft of intellectual property (IP) is more important than ever. The activities of infringers and counterfeiters are estimated to cost the global economy \$650 billion each year and have robbed 2.5 million jobs from the G20 economies. Moreover, counterfeit products are often of inferior quality or outright harmful design, which poses a serious and very real threat to the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens.

While counterfeiting and piracy are not new, the proliferation and extent of these activities is unprecedented. Criminals have turned to the Internet, abusing its virtually unlimited distribution opportunities, to expand their illicit activities and profits. With the Internet, these criminals have access not just to all of the 50 states, but also to the territories, such as Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. And they are succeeding; a recent study found that just a small sample of 43 rogue sites generated over 53 billion visits a year.

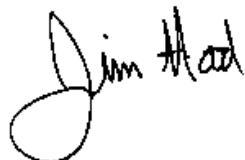
A growing number of rogue websites are based overseas, presenting law enforcement with unique enforcement challenges. We are therefore extremely pleased that in Washington, D.C., both the House and Senate have turned their attention to this major problem. Legislation is needed to disrupt the counterfeiting and pirate business model by cutting those sites off from the American marketplace. This narrowly tailored response to clearly illegal activity would enable effective action against the worst of the worst counterfeiters and pirates online.

We urge Congress to make the introduction and enactment of rogue site legislation a top priority this year. On behalf of all of us and the citizens

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of our respective states, we thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Respectfully,



Jim Hood  
Attorney General of Mississippi  
NAAG Intellectual Property Committee Co-  
Chair



Rob McKenna  
Attorney General of Washington  
NAAG Intellectual Property Committee Co-  
Chair



Roy Cooper  
Attorney General of North Carolina  
NAAG President



Luther Strange  
Attorney General of Alabama



John J. Burns  
Attorney General of Alaska



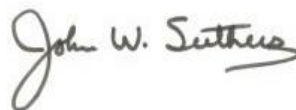
Fepulea'i Arthur Ripley, Jr.  
Attorney General of American Samoa



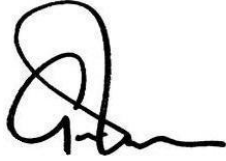
Tom Horne  
Attorney General of Arizona



Dustin McDaniel  
Attorney General of Arkansas



John Suthers  
Attorney General of Colorado



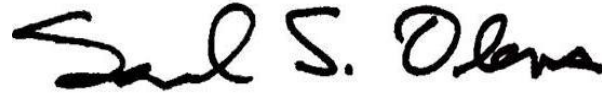
George Jepsen  
Attorney General of Connecticut



Joseph R. Biden, III  
Attorney General of Delaware



Pamela Bondi  
Attorney General of Florida



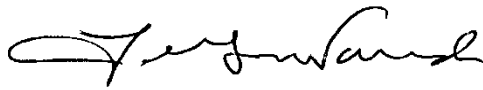
Samuel S. Olens  
Attorney General of Georgia



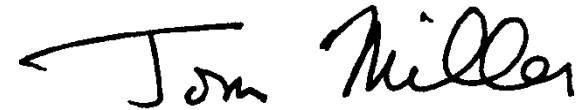
Leonardo M. Rapadas  
Attorney General of Guam



David M. Louie  
Attorney General of Hawaii



Lawrence G. Wasden  
Attorney General of Idaho



Tom Miller  
Attorney General of Iowa

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Derek L. Schmidt  
Attorney General of Kansas



John Conway  
Attorney General of Kentucky



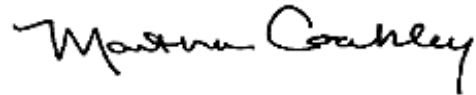
James D. "Buddy" Caldwell  
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Douglas F. Gansler  
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Martha Coakley  
Attorney General of Massachusetts



Bill Schuette  
Attorney General of Michigan



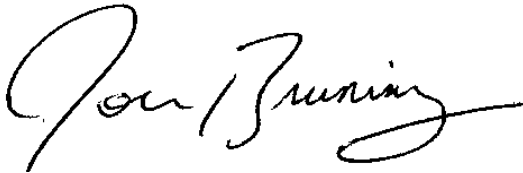
Lori Swanson  
Attorney General of Minnesota



Chris Koster  
Attorney General of Missouri



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
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Michael A. Delaney  
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Gary King  
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Eric Schneiderman  
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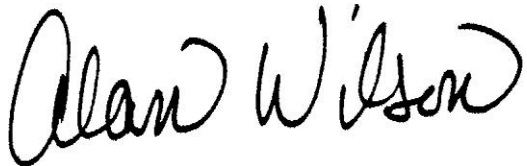
Wayne Stenehjem  
Attorney General of North Dakota



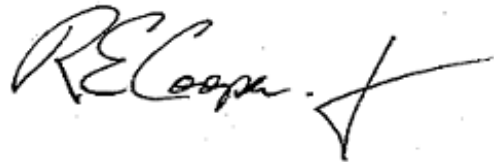
E. Scott Pruitt  
Attorney General of Oklahoma



Peter F. Kilmartin  
Attorney General of Rhode Island



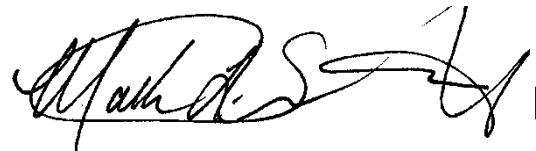
Alan Wilson  
Attorney General of South Carolina



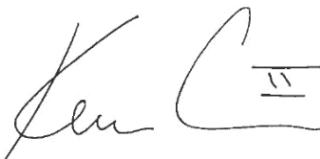
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.  
Attorney General of Tennessee



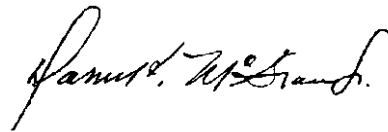
Greg Abbott  
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Darrell V. McGraw, Jr.  
Attorney General of West Virginia



Gregory A. Phillips  
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