

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 3, 2009

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

On March 31, 2004, Attorney General John Ashcroft created a Justice Department Task Force on Intellectual Property, chaired by his Deputy Chief of Staff. The Task Force's October 2004 Report indicated that its mission was, "to examine all of the Department of Justice's intellectual property enforcement efforts and to explore methods for the Justice Department to strengthen its protection of the valuable intellectual resources." We believe the Task Force played a critical role in focusing the Department's limited resources on the most efficient and effective federal solutions to intellectual property theft. Indeed, Congress worked to address many of the issues and needs identified by the Task Force in the "PRO-IP Act of 2008" signed into law last fall.

We are writing to encourage you to establish a similar group of experienced experts from across the Department's different disciplines, and to constitute them under the leadership of a senior official from within the Office of the Attorney General.

America's economic future is tied to intellectual property. Thus, it is critical that the federal government have mechanisms in place to vigorously enforce intellectual property laws and cultivate an environment where creative and innovative industries can flourish.

To meet with success, the Task Force must be under the direction of a senior official working under your authority; an expert whom policymakers can turn to in order to provide input into your Department's efforts and allocation of resources in this area. At the same time, private industry and victims of intellectual property crimes need an empowered leader they can turn to in order to seek assistance, provide intelligence about emerging threats, and help the Department set meaningful enforcement priorities. As strong supporters of the recently nominated Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, we believe that individual would be well-supported by a Task Force leader who could establish a clear line into the Department of Justice's policy and enforcement personnel and priorities.

Sincerely,



ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress



BOB GOODLATTE
Member of Congress



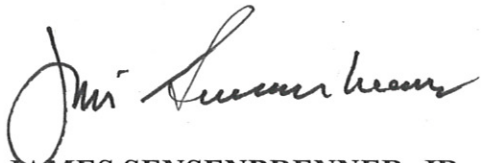
JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress




LAMAR SMITH
Member of Congress




HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress



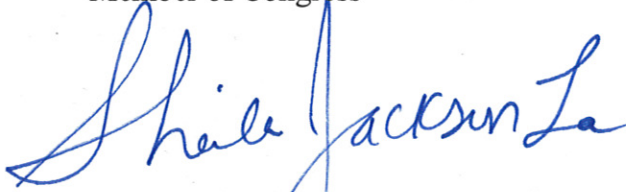
F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
Member of Congress



MELVIN L. WATT
Member of Congress



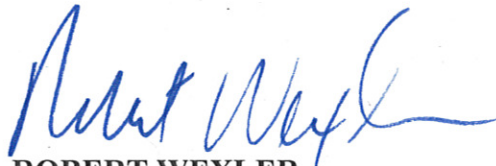
HOWARD COBLE
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON-LEE
Member of Congress




ELTON GALLEGLY
Member of Congress



ROBERT WEXLER
Member of Congress




DARRELL E. ISSA
Member of Congress



STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress



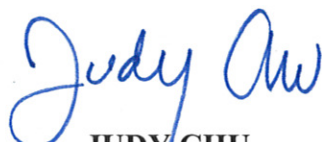
TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress



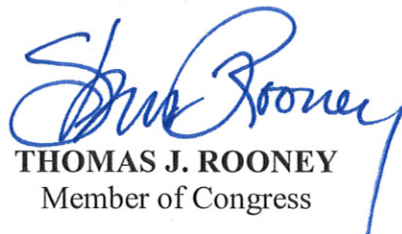
HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress



LOUIE GOHMERT
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



THOMAS J. ROONEY
Member of Congress



ANTHONY D. WEINER
Member of Congress



LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ
Member of Congress



DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress



DANIEL B. MAFFEI
Member of Congress



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



MARY BONO MACK
Member of Congress