



November 30, 2015

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

I am writing to express our strong support for S. 1890, the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2015. IPO is a trade association representing companies and individuals in all industries and fields of technology who own, or are interested in, intellectual property rights. IPO's membership includes almost 300 companies and more than 12,000 individuals who are involved in the association through corporate and other classes of membership.

The current legal tools available to remedy trade secret theft are inefficient and inconsistent with other areas of intellectual property law. The current federal law in this area has limitations. Though the FBI and Department of Justice do a good job enforcing the Economic Espionage Act, they have limited resources and numerous priorities and are not able to pursue all trade secret thefts. Likewise, state trade secret laws are not well-suited to respond to the movement of trade secrets across state and international borders or to act swiftly to preserve evidence and protect trade secrets from being further divulged. S. 1890 will create a federal remedy that will provide a uniform legal framework for our members and others to protect their trade secrets.

Creating a federal civil remedy is also important to our members' global competitiveness. International markets are affected by how countries protect intellectual property. Enacting this legislation will place the United States in a position to promote strong trade secrets protection globally, both by creating the "gold standard" by which countries can model their trade secrets laws and by placing the United States in a better position to negotiate trade agreements and other international treaties that provide strong trade secrets protection. America is a leader in innovation stimulated by strong intellectual property rights. S. 1890 is a vehicle for the United States to further that leadership by better protecting trade secrets.

Thank you again for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Lauroesch
Executive Director

cc: Senate Judiciary Committee

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