

April 19, 2016

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

The undersigned companies and organizations write to express our support for the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and urge the Committee to report a bill that is identical to the one that passed on a unanimous 87-0 vote by the Senate on April 4, 2016, with no additional amendments. The Defend Trade Secrets Act is substantially a product of this Committee's good work, and has achieved bipartisan and bicameral consensus: the bill passed by the Senate retained the improvements made by this Committee in its markup of the legislation in the 113th Congress, with the bill being favorably reported in December 2014.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act will create a harmonized, uniform body of trade secret law nationwide to allow American companies to protect their trade secrets. This bipartisan legislation, introduced in the House by the Vice-Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Intellectual Property Subcommittee, Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA) and Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), will establish a strong standard for trade secret protection in the United States.

Trade secrets are an essential form of intellectual property, and are frequently among a company's most valuable assets. They include information as wide-ranging as manufacturing processes, formulas and codes, industrial techniques, and customer lists. Protecting this form of intellectual property is critical to driving the innovation and creativity at the heart of the American economy. But American companies are increasingly the targets of sophisticated efforts to steal proprietary information, harming our global competitiveness.

Existing trade secret laws are often inadequate to address the increasingly interstate and international nature of trade secret theft today. Federal law provides criminal sanctions for trade secret misappropriation through the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 ("EEA"). While the EEA is a critical tool for law enforcement, U.S. trade secret owners need access to a federal civil remedy and the full spectrum of legal options available to owners of other forms of intellectual property, such as patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act will create a federal remedy to provide a consistent legal framework to trade secret owners nationwide, helping to avoid the commercial injury and loss of employment that can occur when trade secrets are stolen. We are proud to support it and urge the Judiciary Committee to act promptly to report a bill identical to the Senate-passed version with no amendments

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Sincerely,

Adobe
Advanced-Manufacturing Coalition for Technology and Innovation (ACTI)
AdvaMed
AIPLA (American Intellectual Property Law Association)
AMD
Association of Global Automakers, Inc.
Autodesk, Inc.
BASF Corporation
The Boeing Company
Boston Scientific
BSA | The Software Alliance (BSA)
Caterpillar Inc.
Corning Incorporated
The Dow Chemical Company
DuPont
Eli Lilly and Company
Fiber to the Home Council Americas
Ford Motor Company
General Electric
General Motors
Honda
IBM Corporation
Illinois Tool Works Inc. (ITW)
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO)
Medtronic
Michelin North America
Micron Technology, Inc.
Microsoft Corporation
Monsanto
The National Alliance for Jobs & Innovation (NAJI)
National Association of Manufacturers
National Foreign Trade Council
New England Council
NIKE
Pfizer
Philips Lighting
The Procter & Gamble Company
Royal Philips
SAS
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)

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Siemens Corporation
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
The U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United Technologies Corporation (UTC)
VMware
3M

cc: Members of the House Judiciary Committee