

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2100 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

On behalf of America's creative industries, we write to you to applaud the work of the Office of Intellectual Property Enforcement (IPE) and its team in advancing the US creative sector globally and for their tireless work in defense of US national economic security. The United States Department of State has long been a champion of American creative sector businesses and workers – helping to protect the creative industries from theft in foreign countries so that we can continue to deliver US economic growth, job creation, and trade surplus. We write to ask that the IPE Office continue and that in any reorganization IP protection remains a priority for the Department.

The American creative sector contributes significantly to US economic growth, employment, exports, and the digital economy. According to the most recent study, the copyright industries added more than $3.3 trillion to the GDP, accounting for 12.3 percent of the US economy. The total copyright industries accounted for 63.1 percent of the US digital economy, contributing over 56.6 percent to US digital economy employment. The copyright industries employ nearly 21.1 million workers, and the annual compensation paid to core copyright workers amounts to a 50 percent compensation premium over the average US annual wage. The threat of IP theft in foreign countries is ever-present and continuously endangers these creative sector contributions to the US economy.

As President Trump stated in his 2025 World IP Day Proclamation:

> *Just as we protect our physical property, we will not tolerate the theft of our intellectual property, and we will defend our businesses and people from those who are seeking to*

steal American jobs and wealth… Through our promotion and protection of intellectual property, we are empowering musicians, writers, authors, scientists, and inventors to focus on what they do best.

The IPE Office has been unwavering in its commitment to this vision, and the persistent vigilance and effectiveness of the Office has played an instrumental role in US diplomatic engagement and policy development, from bilateral and multilateral negotiations to interagency deliberations. The critical nature of this Office, and its mission to promote IP protection and enforcement globally, was recognized in statute when this long-standing priority function was elevated to office-level status, i.e., Department of State and Related Agency Appropriations Act 2005, Public Law 108-447, December 8, 2004. Likewise, the US government's annual Special 301 Report on IP protection and enforcement in foreign countries, which is also statutorily mandated, relies heavily on the IPE Office's work with US embassies in developing and implementing the Report.

For these reasons, IPE should retain its status at the Department. It is imperative in any reorganization that IP remain mission-critical for the Department as a cornerstone of US diplomatic engagement and that those charged with this priority have expertise in IP and creative sector equities and are empowered to advance this priority within the Department, including with US embassies and other overseas diplomatic posts, to engage in interagency coordination on matters impacting IP and IP-intensive industries, to be part of US government deliberations on such matters, and to be actively involved in US diplomatic engagement, including negotiations, with foreign countries.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Recorded Music
American Association of Independent Music
American Federation of Musicians
American Society for Collective Rights Licensing
American Society of Media Photographers
Artist Management Association
Artist Rights Alliance
Artist Rights Institute
Association of American Publishers
Association of Independent Music Publishers
Association of Writers & Writing Programs
The Authors Guild
Black Music Action Coalition
Choreographers Guild
Concept Art Association
Copyright Alliance
Copyright Clearance Center
CreativeFuture
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO
Directors Guild of America

Entertainment Software Association
Fan Alliance
Folk Alliance International
Future of Music Coalition
Georgia Music Partners
Independent Film and Television Alliance
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition
International Intellectual Property Alliance
Music Artists Coalition
Music Managers Forum – US
National Association of Voice Actors
National Music Council of the United States
News/Media Alliance
Production Music Association
Professional Photographers of America
Recording Academy
Recording Industry Association of America
Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
The Society of Composers & Lyricists
Songwriters Guild of America
SoundExchange
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

cc: The Honorable Michael Rigas, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources
The Honorable Thomas Lersten, Senior Official to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and Environment