

**Etienne Sanz de Acedo** *Chief Executive Officer* 

November 20, 2019

The Honorable Thom Tillis Chairman, Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property United States Senate 185 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property United States Senate 127A Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Tillis and Ranking Member Coons,

I write on behalf of the International Trademark Association (INTA) to express support for the Counterfeit Goods Seizure Act of 2019 (CGSA). The CGSA will help stem the flood of counterfeit goods entering the United States, and thus help protect consumers and U.S. brand owners alike.

The sale of counterfeit goods remains a significant issue that plagues oblivious consumers and brand owners in all industries. In February 2017, INTA along with Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy released a report from Frontier Economics entitled "The Economic Impacts of Counterfeiting and Piracy," which quantifies the global value of counterfeiting and piracy and related economics and social costs. The study found that in 2013, the estimated value of international and domestic trade in counterfeit and pirated goods was a staggering \$1.13 trillion. In 2022, the total estimated value of counterfeit and pirated goods is projected to reach an astounding \$1.90-\$2.81 trillion.

The CGSA will make an important contribution in stemming the flow of physical counterfeit goods across U.S. borders by closing a loophole exploited by counterfeiters. Thus, INTA expresses its whole-hearted support for the CGSA and our appreciation for your introduction of this important legislation.

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If we can be of any further assistance, please contact INTA's Director of Government Relations, Jennifer McDowell, at <u>imcdowell@inta.org</u>.

Respectfully,

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Etienne Sanz de Acedo Chief Executive Officer International Trademark Association

New York | Shanghai | Brussels | Washington, D.C. | Singapore | Santiago

