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December 14, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Smith:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the American Bankers Association (ABA) about the Stop Online Piracy Act (H.R. 3261), which the Judiciary Committee is scheduled to mark up on December 15.

ABA agrees that U.S. intellectual property should be vigorously defended and that rogue websites selling counterfeit or copyright infringing products to U.S. consumers should be shut down.

We support the objectives of H.R. 3261 and have worked with the Committee on several technical concerns that our members have expressed with respect to the legislation. We very much appreciate the significant changes made in your substitute amendment to the bill to address those concerns.

Payment system issues are very complicated, and there are likely to be issues that require further clarification as this legislation moves forward. We urge the Committee to favorably report H.R. 3261 in a strong, bipartisan fashion, and would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your colleagues to address any further issues as this bill moves to the House floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Floyd E. Stoner'.

Floyd E. Stoner

Cc: The Honorable John Conyers, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
Members of the Committee on the Judiciary