



**INTERNATIONAL  
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**EDWIN D. HILL**  
International President

**LINDELL K. LEE**  
International  
Secretary-Treasurer

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chair  
Senate Commerce, Justice, Science  
Subcommittee on Appropriations  
144 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Commerce, Justice, Science  
Subcommittee on Appropriations  
144 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

June 18, 2009

Dear Madam Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

On behalf of the approximately 725,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write in support of full funding for the new *Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property (PRO-IP) Act* (PL 110-403). Signed into law in 2008, the PRO-IP Act authorizes funding to fight intellectual property (IP) theft.

IP theft, often referred to as counterfeiting or copyright piracy, is estimated to cost U.S. businesses \$250 billion in lost revenue annually. So severe is IP theft in the business software industry that a study found just a 10% reduction in the piracy rate over four years would spur the creation of 2.4 million jobs. Another study found that movie piracy – which constitutes just a small percentage of a much larger problem – results in the loss of over 141,000 good paying jobs and \$5.5 billion in lost wages while depriving federal, state, and local governments of \$837 million in tax revenue.

Last year Congress and the President agreed on ground-breaking, bipartisan legislation to address IP theft. Among its provisions, PRO-IP provides for federal coordination and strategic planning against IP theft. It also permits the Attorney General to enforce civil copyright laws.

I am grateful for the enactment of PRO-IP. However, this authorizing legislation would be incomplete without an accompanying appropriation. I respectfully request your support for full funding of PRO-IP when Congress considers appropriations for fiscal year 2010.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin D. Hill  
International President

EDH:lgd

Copy to: The Honorable David Obey, Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Alan Mollohan, Chair, House Commerce, Justice, Science  
Subcommittee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Frank Wolf, Ranking Member, House Commerce, Justice, Science  
Subcommittee on Appropriations