

TIFFANY & CO.

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MICHAEL J. KOWALSKI
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

December 5, 2011

Hon. Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 3261, the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA)

Dear Chairman Smith,

Tiffany & Co. would like to applaud your recent introduction of H.R. 3261, the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA). As an American company, operating in the United States for almost 175 years, Tiffany & Co. has certainly faced commercial and economic obstacles, but none as pervasive and seemingly insurmountable as online infringement. For approximately a decade, Tiffany & Co. has seen exponential growth of the misuse of the internet as a means of facilitating the global trade in counterfeit goods. Counterfeiters continue to exploit American businesses and American consumers through technology and the internet. SOPA offers a response to counterfeiting, with its recognition that all legitimate businesses operating online have a role to play in ensuring the safety and vitality of the internet for both consumers and rights holders. We express our support of the passage of the strongest bill possible and look forward to working with you and your colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to ensure the bill's passage.

For too long, operators of infringing websites have been able to operate largely with impunity – beyond the reach of either criminal or civil enforcement in the United States – while stealing from American innovators and defrauding American consumers. H.R. 3261 recognizes that, though illicit, these operations are businesses, and that disrupting their means of doing business is essential to protecting legitimate companies, like Tiffany & Co., and consumers in the United States. While the surfeit of counterfeit products currently available for purchase online strikes directly at consumer confidence in the internet as a legitimate marketplace, the provisions of this bill represent a significant step toward ensuring the continued viability of the internet as a safe and trusted venue for consumer activity.

While, this legislation addresses highly complex issues, requiring the balancing of a number of competing interests, we appreciate your efforts to bring together a broad range of stakeholders in a cooperative process. Tiffany & Co. firmly believes that a collaborative approach is essential to addressing the problems presented by the online trafficking of counterfeit goods and to ensure the continued vitality of the internet as a legitimate marketplace that consumers can trust. Tiffany & Co. looks forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure the enactment of legislation that fully, effectively and efficiently addresses these vital concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact Tiffany & Co.'s legislative counsel, Gregory Gill at (202) 34404615 or via email at GMGill@Venable.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark J. Kowal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".