


November 22, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2409 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

I write in support of H.R. 3261, the "Stop Online Piracy Act," which you recently introduced. This is a critical piece of legislation that directly affects the Ultimate Fighting Championship® (UFC) and many other U.S.-based companies that create American jobs by producing live sporting events. Presently, the UFC, Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, the National Football League, and many other American sporting businesses are threatened by the unlawful live streaming of our telecasts.

The piracy of live sporting events is illegal, it kills jobs, and it threatens the expansion of U.S.-based companies. This is the issue that keeps us up at night, and we are very concerned about the continued theft of our shows.



In 2001, my brother and I along with our friend Dana White, purchased the nearly bankrupt UFC. We saw great potential in the UFC when many thought we were crazy. We took a great risk, but today the UFC is a phenomenal success, creating and impacting thousands of jobs for our athletes, licensees, partners, and affiliates. That success is threatened by the theft and retransmission of our live pay-per-view events and telecasts, which account for a significant portion of our revenues. Our copyright-protected works are critical to our survival, yet there are infringing web sites where one can find almost any type of pirated content, including live UFC events, NFL, NBA, and MLB games, the Olympics, and virtually every TV show and movie. If copyrighted works are allowed to be pirated with impunity, the potential effects on U.S. producers of entertainment programming, including the thousands of jobs that they create, will be disastrous.

When I testified before the Committee in December 2009, this was a big problem for the UFC. It is even bigger now and will likely get worse. The UFC is potentially losing tens of millions of dollars a year from piracy. With a simple adapter purchased from any retail electronic store, someone with access to one of our live events can reproduce the program and retransmit it over the Internet with the aid of web sites designed to stream video. The site then allows any user to view the programming without authorization or payment. These unauthorized viewers watch the live event just like those who lawfully purchased the content through pay-per-view, except they don't pay.

**ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP®**

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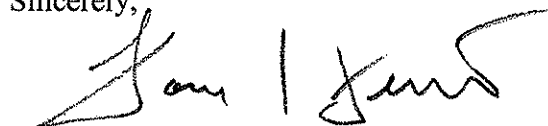
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The UFC constantly employs new technologies to provide our fans with the content they love and in the format they desire, and we support and encourage the development of innovative ways to deliver our content. However, the use of technology to circumvent intellectual property laws and aid the piracy of copyrighted works is something that neither we, the American people, nor its Congress should tolerate.

The Stop Online Piracy Act is a significant step forward. It will bring accountability to those who steal proprietary live broadcasts. It will preserve the value of lawful intellectual-property rights. And it will save American jobs.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Lorenzo J. Fertitta

Chief Executive Officer

Ultimate Fighting Championship®



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