



May 7, 2020

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley,

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) appreciates your April 24 letter to Vice President Pence calling for the Administration to ensure the safety of our hospitals and healthcare workers by stopping the spread of fraudulent medical supplies.

Clearly, counterfeiters have shown they will stop at nothing, not even a global health crisis, to exploit market vulnerabilities and consumer fears. Consequently, strong and courageous voices like yours are paramount if we are going to succeed in stopping counterfeiting, illicit trade and the associated risks to security and prosperity.

In this context, I anticipate that you will be pleased with efforts we took on April 2, along with the U.S. Council for International Business, to issue an urgent "COVID-19 Product Fraud Alert" warning governments and consumers of the proliferation of fake, falsified and substandard medical products and medicines (attached). Additionally, we warned consumers about counterfeit healthcare and consumer products that are in exceptionally high demand because of the pandemic. And in this transmission—shared throughout Latin and South America—we outlined steps for consumers, governments, law enforcement agencies, electronic platforms and brand owners.

Similarly, on April 30 we published another alert, warning governments about the unintended consequences of COVID-19 supply restrictions that are compounding demand for illicit alcohol and exacerbating exposure to toxic, illicit alcohol (attached). Associated deaths have already been reported in Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

I last wrote to you on December 19, 2019 supporting your committee's work and commending your recent Bipartisan Staff Report: *The Fight Against Fakes: How Statutory and Regulatory Barriers Prevent the Sharing of Information on Counterfeits*.

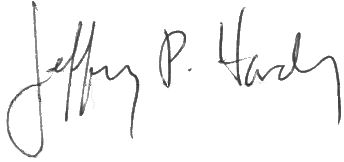
Since then, the US Department of Homeland Security published its report on *Combating Trafficking in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods*. This report sets out much-needed, long-awaited standards that we believe can turn the corner on stopping counterfeiting.

We are currently working with like-minded business associations to structure a legislative agenda for successful implementation of the DHS measures, along with other essential recommendations such as those contained in your report.

Your schedule permitting, I wish to arrange a (virtual) meeting with you and your staff to more deeply share our strategy and to explore collaborations on ushering in a legislative agenda against counterfeiting and illicit trade, including measures intended to improve security and prosperity in this country.

I look forward to your response.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey P. Hardy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey P. Hardy  
Director-General  
Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade