

TRACIT hopeful that U.S. Congress will pass H.R. 5502, INFORM Consumers Act

The bill provides much needed protection to consumers from counterfeit, unsafe and stolen products sold online

Washington, DC, 17 November 2021 - The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) strongly supports the House Energy and Commerce Committee's passage without objection of H.R. 5502, the Integrity, Notification, and Fairness in Online Retail Marketplaces for Consumers Act (INFORM Consumers Act).

This consumer protection bill requires online marketplaces—for the first time—to verify third-party sellers *before* they are allowed to sell products to American consumers.

Counterfeit and stolen goods are a big part of the global trade in illicit products, which harms innocent buyers, causes unfair competition for legitimate business, and robs governments of tax funds that are instead plowed into unscrupulous sellers and organized crime.

"It just makes sense that the INFORM bill requires e-commerce platforms to verify the identity of their sellers," said TRACIT Director General Jeffrey Hardy. **"This is standard practice worldwide, and especially in the United States where regulations have historically protected consumers from rogue sellers of counterfeit, or unsafe or stolen products."**

TRACIT's position with lawmakers in the US is that the bill's focus on "who" is selling illicit products online will immediately crack down on the thousands of suppliers who offer millions upon millions of counterfeit listings.

"We urge the full House to vote on this important bipartisan bill as soon as possible," said Mr. Hardy. **"And I commend Rep. Jan Schakowsky and Rep. Gus Bilirakis on their leadership on this issue, which has unified retailers, consumer groups, leading online marketplaces, small online sellers, manufacturers and all those serious about stopping the sale of counterfeit and stolen goods online."**

About TRACIT

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](https://www.tracit.org)) is an independent, private sector initiative to drive change to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across industry sectors most impacted by illicit trade.

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