



December 9, 2019

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

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Minority Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Grassley and Wyden,

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) applauds your bipartisan efforts to scope and address the legal and regulatory gaps in U.S. laws that must be plugged to combat the flow of counterfeit and pirated goods into the United States. Illicit trade robs U.S. businesses of revenues that instead funds criminals and terrorist organizations; consumers are harmed by faulty products that don't meet U.S. safety standards; governments are deprived of essential tax revenues that could be used for critical services; and workers are denied opportunities when revenues are syphoned from legitimate businesses which could have funded job creation.

Your committee has contributed important evidence that should be used to curb the flow of counterfeit goods before they reach American consumers' hands with your recent Bipartisan Staff Report: *The Fight Against Fakes: How Statutory and Regulatory Barriers Prevent the Sharing of Information on Counterfeits*. The survey you conducted produced actionable intelligence about how small and large brand owners, e-commerce platforms, package deliverers and payment processors are impacted and all have a role in trying to keep fraudulent products out of the U.S. We agree with the findings that further information sharing between the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and all those relevant stakeholders is critical and strongly support the Committee's efforts to close that gap in the legal regime. We further agree that online marketplaces have a responsibility and should do more. Online platforms should better vet their sellers, police their malls and stop the sale of fake products.

TRACIT is an independent, private sector association focused on driving change to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across 11 industry sectors most impacted by illicit trade, including by human and wildlife trafficking.

We look forward to working with you and your Committee on this important initiative.

Warm regards,

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

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