

July 29, 2014

The Honorable George Holding
507 Cannon Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
2110 Rayburn Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard Coble
2188 Rayburn Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
1339 Longworth Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Chabot
2371 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Holding, Nadler, Coble, Jeffries, Chabot and Conyers:

The undersigned companies and organizations write to express our support for the Trade Secrets Protection Act of 2014. We appreciate your leadership on this issue.

The Trade Secrets Protection Act will create a harmonized, uniform standard and system for companies to protect their trade secrets. Your legislation, a companion effort to the bipartisan Senate bill, will establish a strong example for national trade secret laws globally and serve as an important base for international harmonization efforts.

Trade secrets are an essential form of intellectual property and part of the backbone of our information-based economy. Increasingly, trade secrets are critical for the competitiveness of companies that are creating jobs in America. Trade secrets include information as broad-ranging as manufacturing processes, product development, industrial techniques, formulas, and customer lists. Trade secrets account for an average of two-thirds of the value of companies' information portfolios, and therefore represent an integral part of a U.S. company's competitive advantage and its ability to create jobs and value.

Job-creating companies in America are increasingly the targets of sophisticated efforts to steal proprietary information, harming our global competitiveness. In broad industry surveys, as many as 60 percent of respondents report attempted or actual trade secret theft in a given year. This theft harms innovation and job creation.

Federal law protects trade secrets through the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (“EEA”), which provides criminal sanctions against trade secret misappropriation. While the EEA is a critical tool for law enforcement to protect the clear theft of our intellectual property, U.S. trade secret owners also need access to a federal civil remedy and the full spectrum of legal options available to owners of other forms of intellectual property, such as patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

The Trade Secrets Protection Act will create a federal remedy that will provide a consistent, harmonized legal framework and help avoid the commercial injury and loss of employment that can occur when trade secrets are stolen. We are proud to support it.

Sincerely,

Adobe

Advanced-Manufacturing Coalition for Technology and Innovation (ACTI)

The Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)

Air Liquide

Alliance of Automobile Manufactures

American Seed Trade Association

Association of Global Automakers, Inc.

Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)

The Boeing Company

Boston Scientific

Broadcom Corporation

Caterpillar Inc.

Corning Incorporated

Cree, Inc.

Dell Inc.

DuPont

Eli Lilly and Company

General Electric

Honda

IBM

Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

Kodak

Medical Device Manufacturers Association

Medtronic

Merck

Michelin

Micron

Microsoft

Monsanto

National Alliance for Jobs and Innovation (NAJI)

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)

National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)

NIKE
Pfizer
Philips
The Procter & Gamble Company
Qualcomm
SAS
Seagate Technology LLC
Siemens
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
3M
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United Technologies Corporation

cc: Chairman Robert W. Goodlatte, House Judiciary Committee
Members of the House Judiciary Committee