

July 29, 2015

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senator
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Coons
United States Senator
172A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Flake
United States Senator
413 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch, Senator Coons, and Senator Flake:

The undersigned companies and organizations write to express our support for the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2015. We appreciate your leadership on this issue.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act will create a harmonized, uniform standard and system for companies to protect their trade secrets. Your bipartisan legislation will establish a strong standard for trade secret protection.

Trade secrets are an essential form of intellectual property. Trade secrets include information as broad-ranging as manufacturing processes, product development, industrial techniques, formulas, and customer lists. The protection of this form of intellectual property is critical to driving the innovation and creativity at the heart of the American economy. Companies in America, however, are increasingly the targets of sophisticated efforts to steal proprietary information, harming our global competitiveness.

Existing state trade secret laws are inadequate to address the interstate and international nature of trade secret theft today. Federal law protects trade secrets through the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (“EEA”), which provides criminal sanctions for 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 Defend Trade Secrets 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.

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Page 2

Sincerely,

Association of Global Automakers, Inc.
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)
The Boeing Company
Boston Scientific
BSA | The Software Alliance (BSA)
Caterpillar Inc.
Corning Incorporated
Eli Lilly and Company
General Electric
Honda
IBM
Illinois Tool Works Inc.
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Intel
International Fragrance Association, North America
Johnson & Johnson
Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA)
Medtronic
Micron
Microsoft
National Alliance for Jobs and Innovation (NAJI)
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
The New England Council
NIKE
Pfizer
The Procter & Gamble Company
Siemens Corporation
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United Technologies Corporation
3M

cc: Chairman Charles E. Grassley, Senate Judiciary Committee
Ranking Member Patrick J. Leahy, Senate Judiciary Committee
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee