



United States Department of State

*Under Secretary of State
for Economic, Business, and
Agricultural Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520-7512

May 8, 2003

Dear Mr. Smith:

Under Secretary Grossman and I thank you for your May 1, 2003, letter outlining your organization's concerns with the absence of pro-copyright language in the draft Declaration of Principles and Action Plan being considered for adoption in preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), to be held in Geneva on December 10-12, 2003. Please be assured that we appreciate your input to the U.S. preparatory process for the WSIS and, consistent with the rules guiding our Federal Advisory Committee, we will make your letter available to the public.

The State Department has been a staunch advocate for intellectual property rights in multilateral and bilateral fora, and will continue that advocacy in these discussions. We are coordinating internally and with other U.S. agencies in preparation for the WSIS. In the months ahead, we will continue to coordinate with you and other interested stakeholders to ensure that the United States advocates positions that reflect the input of all critical stakeholders in this process.

Preparations for the WSIS in the Department are being coordinated by the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs' (EB) Office of International Communications and Information Policy, in conjunction with the International Organization Bureau's Office of Technical Specialized Agencies. Please consider those offices as well as Susan Wilson (202-647-2291) of EB's Office of Intellectual Property and Competition Policy to be your primary WSIS contacts at the Department.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Larson".

Alan Larson

Mr. Eric Smith
President, IIPA,
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006.