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Statement of the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) on the WTO Approval for Antigua & Barbuda to Suspend Certain Intellectual Property Obligations

Washington — Today in Geneva, the World Trade Organization (WTO) gave Antigua and Barbuda final approval to cross-retaliate against U.S. intellectual property rights worth \$21 million a year.

Steve Metalitz, counsel to IIPA, commented, “We are of the firm view that suspending intellectual property rights is not the right solution, and that state-sanctioned theft is an affront to any society. Should Antigua determine to move forward in this manner, it would certainly interfere with the ability to reach a negotiated resolution, and would harm the interests of Antiguan.”

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About the IIPA: The IIPA is a private sector coalition, formed in 1984, of trade associations representing U.S. copyright-based industries in bilateral and multilateral efforts working to improve international protection and enforcement of copyrighted materials and open up foreign markets closed by piracy and other market access barriers. IIPA’s seven member associations represent over 3,200 U.S. companies producing and distributing materials protected by copyright laws throughout the world—all types of computer software, including business applications software and entertainment software (interactive games for videogame consoles, handheld devices, personal computers and the Internet); theatrical films, television programs, DVDs and home video and digital representations of audiovisual works; music, records, CDs, and audiocassettes; and fiction and non-fiction books, education instructional and assessment materials, and professional and scholarly journals, databases and software in all formats. Visit www.iipa.com. Members of the IIPA include Association of American Publishers, BSA | The Software Alliance, Entertainment Software Association, Independent Film & Television Alliance, Motion Picture Association of America, National Music Publishers’ Association, and Recording Industry Association of America.

The economic report *Copyright Industries in the U.S. Economy: The 2011 Report*, is the thirteenth study written by Stephen Siwek of Economists Inc. to detail the economic impact and contributions of U.S. copyright industries to U.S. Gross Domestic Product, employment, and trade. The “core” copyright-based industries in the U.S. continue to be major contributors to the U.S. economy, accounting for an estimated \$931.8 billion or 6.36% of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 2010, and nearly 5.1 million workers in 2010, which is 3.93% of all U.S. workers and 4.75% of all private workers in 2010.¹ The report notes a 27% “compensation premium” for workers in the core copyright industries, amounting to \$78,128 per year. Finally, estimated 2010 foreign sales and exports of key sectors of the core copyright industries amounted to \$134 billion, a significant increase over previous years, and exceeding foreign sales of other major U.S. industries such as aircraft, automobiles, agricultural products, food, and pharmaceuticals. Other countries’ studies similarly show the significant linkage between copyright protection and economic development, as documented by the World Intellectual Property Organization’s 2012 study on the *Copyright + Creativity = Jobs and Economic Growth: WIPO Studies on the Economic Contribution of the Copyright Industries*.²

¹See Steven E. Siwek, *Copyright Industries in the U.S. Economy: The 2011 Report*, November 2, 2011. The entire report as well as summaries can be accessed at http://www.iipa.com/copyright_us_economy.html. Core copyright industries are those whose primary purpose is to create, produce, distribute or exhibit copyright materials. These include books, journals, newspapers, and periodicals; motion pictures; recorded music; radio and television broadcasting; and computer software. Total copyright industries include the “core” industries and those whose revenues are dependent on the “core”. These encompass industries whose reliance on copyright is “partial;” “non-dedicated support” industries, that distribute copyright and non-copyrighted material; and “interdependent” sectors such as manufacturers of equipment primarily used with copyright materials.

²In 2003, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) published a guidebook on the economic parameters to develop such studies entitled *Guide on Surveying the Economic Contribution of the Copyright-Based Industries* (WIPO Publication No. 893) (2003), at http://www.wipo.int/copyright/en/publications/pdf/copyright_pub_893.pdf. The guidelines have been implemented in over 40 countries around the world, and 30 studies have been completed and published, including: Australia (2007), Bhutan (2011), Brunei (2011), Bulgaria (2011), Canada (2004), Colombia (2010), Croatia (2010), Hungary (2006), Jamaica (2008), Kenya, Korea, Latvia (2006), Lebanon (2008), Malaysia (2007), Mexico (2008), the Netherlands (2008), Panama, People’s Republic of China, Peru, the Philippines (2008), Romania (2010), Russia (2010), Singapore (2006), Slovenia, and Ukraine (2010).