



For Immediate Release
January 19, 2006

Contact: Eric H. Smith
(202) 833-4198

**THE U.S. COPYRIGHT INDUSTRIES APPLAUD THE SIGNING OF
THE U.S. - OMAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

URGE IMMEDIATE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

Washington, D.C. – The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), comprised of seven U.S. copyright-based trade associations comprising over 1,900 companies, applauded today’s signing of the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement.

Eric H. Smith, IIPA President, said, “Ambassador Portman and his able negotiators deserve the highest praise for achieving strong standards of copyright protection. High standards of copyright protection – important for the development of creative industries in Oman – continue the trend of establishing strong copyright protection throughout the Gulf States and the Arab world. It must also not be underestimated what high-level copyright protection in Oman will mean to the U.S. economy, to jobs and to the future of global e-commerce. Oman recognizes that its economy will increasingly depend on the creativity of its citizens, as supported by comprehensive copyright protections, as new markets develop to promote the digital transmission of copyright material globally. By securing high-level obligations for copyright protection and enforcement, the United States has signaled that it seeks the widest dissemination of copyright-based products and enabling technologies around the globe.” Smith added, “Effective implementation of these new standards, both on-the-books and in actual enforcement practices, is critical.”

* * *

The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) is a coalition of seven trade associations formed in 1984 to represent the U.S. copyright-based industries in bilateral and multilateral efforts to improve international protection of copyright materials, and to open up foreign markets closed by piracy and other market access barriers. The IIPA is comprised of: the Association of American Publishers (AAP), the Business Software Alliance (BSA), the Entertainment Software Association (ESA), Independent Television and Film Alliance (IFTA), the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), the National Music Publishers Association (NMPA), and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). These member associations represent over 1,900 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 (such as videogame CDs and cartridges, personal computer CD-ROMs and multimedia products); theatrical films, television programs, home videos and digital representations of audiovisual works; music, records, CDs, and audiocassettes; and textbooks, tradebooks, reference and professional publications and journals (in both electronic and print media). For more information on the IIPA, visit www.iipa.com.