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The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) applauds President Obama's Action Plan with the Government of Colombia

Washington, D.C. —The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) applauds President Obama's agreement with the Government of Colombia on an Action Plan of concrete steps toward finalizing the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. This agreement is a vital step forward for the United States to promote political stability, economic growth and expansion of trade with one of our most important allies in the hemisphere. It is of critical importance for the many industry sectors that depend on copyright protection. On the issues of copyright law reform and copyright enforcement, the agreement establishes key requirements to protect all copyrighted works against piracy, including piracy in the digital environment. Swift adoption and implementation of these provisions will result in positive effects for American and Colombian creators alike. We commend the President for this announcement, and urge him to work closely with Congress to obtain rapid approval of an agreement that will establish a model trade relationship with Colombia.

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About the IIPA: The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) is a coalition of seven trade associations – Association of American Publishers (AAP), Business Software Alliance (BSA), Entertainment Software Association (ESA), Independent Film & Television Alliance (IFTA), Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), National Music Publishers' Association (NMPA) and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) – which represent the U.S. copyright-based industries in bilateral and multilateral efforts to open up foreign markets closed by piracy and other market access barriers. 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 discs and cartridges, personal computer CD-ROMs, and multimedia products); theatrical films, television programs, DVDs and home video and digital representations of audiovisual works; music, records, CDs, and audiocassettes; and textbooks, trade books, reference and professional publications and journals (in both electronic and print media). The core copyright-based industries in the U.S. represent over 6% of the U.S. gross domestic product; employed 5.6 million U.S. workers in 2007, who earned average salaries 30% higher than the U.S. workforce average; and accounted for some \$126 billion in exports and foreign sales that year, leading other major industry sectors. For more information, see our website at www.iipa.com.