



For Immediate Release
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**THE U.S. COPYRIGHT INDUSTRIES APPLAUD THE SIGNING
OF THE U.S. - CENTRAL AMERICAN-DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (CAFTA-DR)**

Washington, D.C. -- The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), comprised of six trade associations and their over 1,300 companies representing the U.S. copyright industries, applauded today's signing by President Bush of the Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic.

Eric H. Smith, IIPA President, said, "The CAFTA-DR recognizes that achieving comprehensive and high copyright protection and enforcement standards will support the U.S. economy, job creation, and the future of global e-commerce when these standards are implemented throughout this entire region. These nations also realize that their economies will increasingly depend on the creativity of their citizens, supported by comprehensive copyright protections, as new markets develop to promote the digital transmission of copyright material globally." Smith added, "Effective implementation of these new standards, both on-the-books and in actual enforcement practice, is crucial."

Passage of this legislation also has significant precedential value in ensuring that high levels of intellectual property protection are also provided in other FTAs being negotiated in the region (and globally), including the Andean FTA and the Panama FTA. Passage of CAFTA-DR is an important milestone for the U.S. copyright industries."

Other CAFTA chapters will also have a positive impact on the copyright-based industries. For example, CAFTA grants full market access and national treatment for computer and related services by adopting a "negative list" approach and by having no reservations in this important sector for the U.S. information technology industry. As with other recent U.S. Free Trade Agreements, the CAFTA ensures that customs duties will not be applied to electronically delivered digital products, assures the non-discriminatory treatment of digital products, addresses the valuation of physically delivered digital products, and provides commitments to cooperate on electronic commerce policy.

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The IIPA is a private-sector coalition formed in 1984 to represent the U.S. copyright-based industries in bilateral and multilateral efforts to improve international protection of copyrighted materials. IIPA's six member associations represent over 1,300 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). Visit the IIPA website at www.iipa.com.