



For Immediate Release
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**THE COPYRIGHT INDUSTRIES LAUD THE CONCLUSION
OF THE U.S.-SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), representing six trade associations and over 1100 companies representing the U.S. copyright industries, applauded Ambassador Zoellick and his able team of negotiators for reaching final agreement on an historic Free Trade Agreement with Singapore. IIPA also praised the Singapore government for agreeing to a strong copyright and enforcement text that should enable it to attract significant e-commerce investment and become an e-commerce hub for all Asia.

IIPA and its members worked closely with the U.S. negotiators to develop a text ensuring the strongest copyright protection and enforcement in Singapore. While the text is not yet public, preliminary indications are that the text provides the highest level of protection and enforcement ever achieved in an international instrument, including full implementation of the new WIPO "Internet" Treaties. Singapore's agreement to a detailed implementation of all these Treaties obligations, plus the advances it has agreed to in its enforcement regime, makes this IP agreement among the best ever achieved.

Eric H. Smith, IIPA President, said, "Ambassador Zoellick and his negotiators deserve the highest praise for recognizing the importance that achieving such high standards will mean, when these standards are hopefully adopted elsewhere in Asia, to the U.S. economy, to jobs and to the future of global e-commerce. Singapore is to be praised for its clear recognition that its economy will increasingly depend on the creativity of its citizens and its ability to attract the most sophisticated and valuable technology as the world moves to digital transmission of copyright material globally. We urge the Congress to approve this agreement as quickly as possible so it can become a template for the other upcoming free trade agreements. By securing even better protection for intellectual property, the United States has signaled that it seeks the widest dissemination of copyright-based enabling technologies and entertainment products throughout Asia and globally."

"IIPA looks forward to reviewing the final Singapore text when it is made public," Smith added, "and our industries expect to be fully committed to support prompt approval of the agreement under Congress' new trade promotion authority. While we will be analyzing the completed Chile text as well, IIPA members intend to review each FTA agreement on its own merits."

The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) is a coalition of six U.S. trade associations whose over 1,100 member companies produce and distribute copyrighted materials -- books, films, records and music, business and entertainment software - to markets around the world. According to a recent report entitled Copyright Industries in the U.S. Economy: The 2002 Report, the copyright industries, in 2001, generated more foreign sales and export revenues than other industry sector in the United States (\$89 billion), employed close to 5 million American workers in 2001 (3.5% of the U.S. workforce), and added \$535 billion to the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (5.24% of GDP). These industries are among the fastest growing in the U.S. economy. For more information on the IIPA and its member associations, visit www.iipa.com.