

There is widespread agreement that online piracy and the problem of "rogue" foreign sites threaten the economic security and intellectual property of United States businesses. There is also widespread agreement that the Internet has revolutionized the way the world learns, interacts, and does business. Any effort to combat online piracy must both protect intellectual property rights and the role of the Internet in today's economy.

The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) is intended to protect U.S. businesses by shutting down websites that are dedicated to trafficking pirated materials. Well intentioned though it may be, I have strong concerns that SOPA would infringe on Internet freedom, stifle the innovation that has spurred thousands of startup companies, and threaten Internet security. Many of the companies that are threatened by online piracy would not be as strong as they are today without the Internet. Congress must be careful that in protecting intellectual property rights, it does not do so at the expense of what has made the Internet one of the biggest drivers of the economy. SOPA does not strike this balance and needs to go back to the drawing board.