

TO THE OFFICERS OF ALL IATSE LOCALS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Recently, we've been talking more and more about the rampant theft of movies and TV shows, how content theft is impacting the entertainment community and how important it is for us to stop it in order to protect our members and the 2.4 million American jobs that the entertainment industry supports. And the response we heard back from you, was: **What can I do to help?**

Right now, there is a bill in Congress that can help shut down illegal international Web sites that provide stolen movies, TV shows and other intellectual property to US markets. It's called the **PROTECT IP [Intellectual Property] Act**, and it gives law enforcement new authority to take action against these international thieves and the third parties who support them.

These overseas "rogue" Web sites are often operated by criminal enterprises, are highly sophisticated and designed to look legitimate. They appear in search results, frequently accept credit card payments or alternative payment methods such as PayPal, and even run advertisements from respected companies. But the movies and TV shows they sell are stolen, and that hurts everyone who works in this industry. So what can you and your members do to help?

The first step is to speak out – by joining **Creative America**, a new grassroots organization that will give the people of the entertainment community a powerful, unified voice in the fight for stronger laws and policies to protect American jobs and creativity. **Creative America** is supported by major unions, guilds, studios and networks as part of an unprecedented joint effort to protect our content, our creative opportunities and our jobs. Together, we will speak with one voice and make sure that voice is heard.

Starting today, you and your members can visit the Creative America Web site at: <http://www.creativeamerica.org/#/IATSE> to learn more, sign up and take action. At the site, you can send a letter to your Senators and Representatives in Washington, asking them to protect our jobs by supporting the PROTECT IP Act. This issue won't be solved by one bill, and it won't happen overnight. So down the road, there will be more opportunities to stay informed, share information and take action.

In the coming weeks, we'll keep you informed of what we're doing here at the International, and we hope you'll take this new opportunity to get involved and engage your members in this campaign.

Best regards.

In Solidarity,
Matthew D. Loeb
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT