



March 3, 2020

Honorable Jerry Nadler
Honorable Doug Collins
Honorable Henry Johnson
Honorable Martha Roby
U.S. House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee
Washington, DC

Dear Congressional Members,

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) commends you for introducing H.R. 6058, the Shop Safe Act, to safeguard consumers from exposure to goods that implicate health and safety.

As you take these critical steps to ensure a fraud-free shopping experience in the ever-expanding universe of e-Commerce, we encourage you to consider expanding the scope of this legislation to protect consumers who must also be confident in the quality and authenticity of the products they purchase online, and to insulate them from exposure to purchases that ultimately jeopardize fundamental human rights, cause irreparable damage to the environment, impact American innovation, and erode the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers and workers.

These far-ranging and increasingly alarming negative impacts of counterfeiting online are delineated in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Report of January 24, 2020, "Combating Trafficking in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods," along with several recommendations for deterrent action like those included in H.R. 6058. We believe these efforts are complementary to yours and we encourage you and your esteemed colleagues to consider them as you continue the process of safeguarding consumers from fraud, exploitation and other risks associated with counterfeits increasingly available in the interconnected digital world.

As e-Commerce platforms like Amazon spend billions¹ to grow their business by investing in the development of their third-party marketplace, we believe that a commensurate level of investment and care should be put into developing controls and systems that will ensure the integrity of the marketplaces and ensure a safe, secure and fraud-free shopping experience for consumers today and increasingly in the future.

¹ <https://www.inc.com/jason-aten/amazon-just-announced-its-spending-15-billion-to-dominate-this-market-heres-why-small-businesses-should-pay-attention.html>

We endorse your objectives to tighten controls over third-party sellers who might exploit e-Commerce platforms for the sale of counterfeits. Online sellers must comply with—or be held liable of lack of compliance—the same, long-established regulatory controls for health, safety and security that govern all commercial transactions. Profitability and responsibility must go hand in hand.

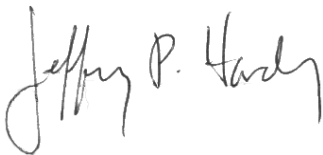
TRACIT is an independent, non-profit business association driving change to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing business across 11 industry sectors most impacted by illicit trade, including human and wildlife trafficking.

Illicit traders are engaged in counterfeiting and piracy, smuggling, corruption and bribery, money laundering and tax evasion; they plunder natural resources, abuse supply chains and expose consumers to fake and potential harmful products. They violate intellectual property laws by providing fake goods under legitimate brand names; they lie and mis-label their products.

Sellers of fake and substandard products exploit the same vulnerabilities in regulatory governance and in the global supply chain, including online platforms, small package distributors including the U.S. Postal Service, transporters and payment facilitators.

Illicit trade—in all forms—must be stopped. It harms consumers, robs businesses and governments of revenues that could be invested in jobs and critical services, and lines the pockets of criminal and terrorist organizations.

We look forward to working with you and your staff through the legislative process.



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