



November 10, 2021

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Schakowsky and Ranking Member Bilirakis,

On behalf of the Members of the Buy Safe America Coalition (BSAC) and the Coalition to Protect America's Small Sellers (PASS) we applaud the bi-partisan introduction of the Integrity, Notification and Fairness in Online Retail Marketplaces (INFORM) for Consumers Act – H.R. 5502. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue, which has unified retailers, consumer groups, leading online marketplaces, small online sellers, manufacturers and all those serious about stopping the sale of counterfeit and stolen goods sold online.

Our members, collectively support the prompt enactment of H.R. 5502, the INFORM Consumers Act because it modernizes our consumer protection laws to safeguard families and communities from the sale of illicit products. The legislation requires sensible verification and disclosure requirements that will mitigate the ability of criminals to take advantage of consumers and compete directly with legitimate small businesses and entrepreneurs. These bad actors have exploited the pandemic by using this crisis to peddle counterfeit and stolen goods to unsuspecting families, businesses, and communities.

This legislation will improve upon the important working relationship between marketplaces, retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, brands and to law enforcement by further facilitating law enforcement to duly prosecute criminals and remove harmful products from marketplaces. Importantly, it will also protect small sellers who are providing unique and creative goods to the public both online and on main street. No business should have to compete with a criminal network operating an illegitimate business selling knockoffs or stolen products. Every sale of an illicit good is a sale lost by a legitimate community storefront or a budding entrepreneur selling goods online. Taken all together, this important legislation will allow consumers purchasing goods online to shop with greater confidence that the goods they purchase are not stolen, counterfeit or unsafe; and it will protect legitimate American entrepreneurs and small businesses who use marketplace platforms to grow their business with access to a global customer base.

The INFORM Consumers Act is a strong consumer protection bill that strikes the right balance of enhancing consumer protections while protecting honest individual and small seller's privacy and security. It is why our members are actively engaging members of Congress on and off the Committee to generate support and continue the momentum to move this legislation forward. It is time to take action and stop counterfeiters and organized retail criminals from duping American consumers with their dangerous, harmful and stolen goods.

The members of the PASS Coalition and the Buy Safe America Coalition are proud to join together to support your efforts to move H.R. 5502 – as drafted – through the Committee and the House floor in the very near future. Again, thank you for your commitment and dedication to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Hanson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Hanson
Spokesperson, Buy Safe America Coalition

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chris Lamond", in a cursive style.

Chris Lamond
Executive Director, Protecting America's Small Sellers