

# THE IP COMMISSION

THE COMMISSION ON THE THEFT OF  
AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Washington, D.C.  
June 8, 2021

Media Contact: Debbie Cooper  
202.347.9767  
Email: [media@IPCommission.org](mailto:media@IPCommission.org)

### **IP Commission Supports New Legislation to Protect Trade Secrets**

WASHINGTON, D.C. | The Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property (IP Commission) supports the aims of the SECRETS Act that enhance the protection of intellectual property.

The IP Commission has consistently noted that the Section 337 process, established under the Tariff Act of 1930, is inadequate to respond to the reality of IP theft in the current environment. The Commission's 2013 Report described the process as "in desperate need of overhaul"—a need that has not yet been addressed. According to IP Commission Chair Admiral Dennis Blair, "the key factor has long been the speed at which the process can operate; it has been far too slow to fully protect American IP holders."

The recently introduced bipartisan SECRETS Act seeks to remedy this problem by establishing a rapid-response mechanism to quickly block the importation of goods made using stolen IP. The IP Commission supports the aims of the legislation.

IP Commission Co-Chair Emeritus Governor Jon Huntsman stated, "the goals in the SECRETS Act are in line with IP Commission recommendations. These steps could have a significant impact on deterring IP theft and protecting American companies."

The IP Commission has consistently judged that the best way to meaningfully reduce the scale of IP theft is to fundamentally change the calculus for individual bad actors. IP theft, especially when backed by a government actor or state-owned enterprise, can quickly destroy the competitiveness of U.S. businesses. The imperative to streamline and expedite the government's response has been central to IP Commission recommendations since the Commission's establishment in 2012.

Specifically, the SECRETS Act addresses three recommendations from the IP Commission's 2021 Review:

- Increase the speed and force with which IP theft is identified and remedied;
- Streamline and expedite the Section 337 process to provide more timely protection against infringing imports; and
- Augment a streamlined Section 337 process with a quick-response capability to block imported goods with stolen or pirated materials or made with a business process using illegally procured IP.

The IP Commission is heartened by the focus on IP protection in the new Congress and looks forward to further legislative progress to address this pressing threat.

To view the full IP Commission 2021 Review, [click here](#).

### **About the IP Commission**

The Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property is an independent and bipartisan initiative of leaders from the private sector, public service in national security and foreign affairs, academia, and politics.

### **About the Commissioners**

#### *Chair:*

**Admiral Dennis C. Blair**, Knott Professor of the Practice at the University of North Carolina, former commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, and former U.S. director of national intelligence

#### *Co-chair Emeritus:*

**Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.**, vice chair, policy, Ford Motor Company; former ambassador of the United States to Russia and China, governor of the State of Utah, and deputy U.S. trade representative

#### *Other Commissioners:*

**Charles W. Boustany, Jr.**, counselor to the National Bureau of Asian Research, former six-term U.S. representative from Louisiana

**William J. Lynn III**, CEO of Leonardo DRS

**Deborah Wince-Smith**, president and CEO of the Council on Competitiveness

**Michael K. Young**, president emeritus of Texas A&M University, professor at the Bush School of Government and Public Administration at Texas A&M University

Media inquiries: (202) 347-9767 or [media@IPCommission.org](mailto:media@IPCommission.org)

-End-