

For Immediate Release

SIIA Communications Contact: Laura Greenback, 202.789.4461, lgreenback@siiia.net

PR Agency Contact: Beth Dozier, 202.429.1833, bethdozier@rational360.com

SIIA Endorses the PROTECT IP Act; Calls on Congress to Provide Stronger Tools to Stop the Online Sale of Illegal Software

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 12, 2011) –The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), the principal trade association for the software and digital content industries, today applauded the introduction of the PROTECT IP Act by Senator Leahy (D-VT), and urges him and other Judiciary Committee members to make this bill a priority.

The Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011 (the PROTECT IP Act) is a bipartisan bill that will provide the government and rights holders with improved tools to help stop those who use websites to profit from piracy and counterfeiting of software, content and other intellectual property. Significantly, the bill enlists the support of domain name registrars, financial transaction providers, Internet advertising services and search engines to help prevent these criminals from using the Internet to sell and distribute these illegal goods.

“If criminals are disrupted from registering domain names or processing financial transactions, it will be much harder for them to rip off companies and prey on consumers,” said Keith Kupferschmid, General Counsel and Senior Vice President for Intellectual Property at SIIA. “The importance of this bill lies in the fact that it will eliminate critical technical and financial resources that are used to move pirated and counterfeit goods.”

Ken Wasch, President of SIIA, commented, “This balanced, bipartisan legislation would greatly extend our reach and ability to thwart piracy – especially operations taking place on foreign websites. We applaud Senator Leahy for recognizing that piracy and counterfeiting hurts the software and content industries and consumers and costs American jobs. We look forward to working with Senator Leahy and members of Judiciary Committee on improvements to the PROTECT IP Act as it moves forward and arm our justice system with the tools needed to combat software and content piracy and protect consumers.”

SIIA runs the industry’s most aggressive program to fight software and content piracy. The proactive campaign is premised on the notion that one must balance enforcement with education in order to be effective.

About SIIA

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to more than 500 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit: www.siiia.net.

###