



Friday, January 17, 2003

Ms. Veronica Steadman
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Office of Legislative and International Affairs, Room 902
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22202

RE: Docket No. 2003-C-006, Technical Protection Systems for Digitized
Copyrighted Works: ITI Comments.

Ms. Steadman:

ITI is pleased to comment on the report of the Under Secretary for Intellectual Property to Congress on technological protection systems that could be used for distance learning processes.

We support promotion of distance learning as an important way to actualize the benefits of the broadband Internet and reach out to students who might not otherwise be served. We also support the use of market-based digital rights management technologies to protect content. ITI's members have invested hundreds of millions of dollars to develop effective content protection technologies. We have also engaged in an intensive dialogue with policymakers, the entertainment industries and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive approach to reducing digital piracy.

As you prepare your report on technological protection systems and standards activities, we urge you to avoid giving special imprimatur to any particular technology and to only focus on those technologies that an educator could put to use for purposes of meeting the TEACH Act's requirements.

As you know, there are a number of significant dialogues going on between technology and entertainment companies to address issues like the "broadcast flag" and the "analog hole." While these dialogues are important elements in a comprehensive approach to privacy, they are not expected to lead to a particular product that educators could use to comply with the TEACH Act. As such, we urge you not to focus on them in your report to Congress.

ITI will continue to be involved in the ongoing dialogues about how to protect intellectual property in the digital age. Please feel free to contact us for any

specific information in compiling the report or regarding any other issues of interest to the Patent and Trademark Office.

Sincerely,

/s/

Brian Adkins
Director of Government Relations