



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 2006

I send greetings to all those observing World Intellectual Property Day.

In today's increasingly competitive world, improved enforcement of intellectual property rights is critical to establishing free and fair trade among nations and to protecting consumers and hardworking innovators. World Intellectual Property Day helps raise awareness about intellectual property and the many contributions scientists, engineers, and artists have made to our society through their work.

My Administration recognizes the vital importance of protecting intellectual property. Through the Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy, or STOP!, we are making the most aggressive effort in American history to prevent violations of intellectual property rights. This past March, I was also pleased to sign the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act. This important piece of legislation will help protect Americans from those who sell illegal products and steal intellectual property. In addition, we are working with our international trading partners to promote strong intellectual property laws around the globe and to encourage countries to be responsible stakeholders in the international economic system.

I appreciate the World Intellectual Property Organization, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and all those who support and protect ideas and innovations. Your efforts advance justice and help create a future of greater freedom and prosperity around the world.

Laura and I send our best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack" followed by a stylized flourish.