

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## IIPA Supports USTR Focus on Major Copyright Markets in the 2024 Special 301 Report

### *2024 Special 301 Report Highlights Market Access and Enforcement Challenges for U.S. Creative Industries in 27 Overseas Markets*

**Washington** — The following is a statement from the International Intellectual Property Alliance® (IIPA®) on the release today of the 2024 Special 301 Report:

“The IIPA® congratulates the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on the release today of the **2024 Special 301 Report**. This congressionally mandated annual report importantly identifies obstacles to expanding legitimate global commerce in creative works. IIPA thanks Ambassador Katherine Tai, the USTR team, and their interagency colleagues for diligently working to open foreign markets to American creative content, which helps to support the livelihoods of U.S. creators and workers.

“This year’s Report once again highlights key priorities of the U.S. creative industries, including calling on U.S. trading partners to eliminate barriers that undermine the competitiveness of lawful services, especially in online and mobile marketplaces. IIPA welcomes the Report’s discussion of online and broadcast piracy, including stream ripping and illicit IPTV services; collective management problems that impede right holders from receiving compensation for their works; and the need to improve IP enforcement. The Report also notes the importance of freedom of contract for the transfers of exclusive rights, which allows copyright owners “to freely and separately transfer their economic rights by contract and to fully enjoy the benefits derived from those rights,” a critical factor for the healthy growth of a dynamic digital marketplace.

“Principally, the Special 301 Report identifies overseas markets where trade barriers, including inadequate copyright protection and enforcement and other market access restrictions, should be addressed. Progress on elimination of these barriers not only supports U.S. creators but also helps our trading partners to develop their domestic creative industries and nurture their own creators.

“The U.S. government’s regular engagement with U.S. trading partners as part of the Special 301 review process remains a key trade policy tool for advancing these priorities. The U.S. copyright industries appreciate USTR’s commitment to preserving this tool’s integrity and effectiveness, as well as all the work by USTR and the interagency to help open markets for U.S. creative content over the past year. IIPA looks forward to working with USTR and with agencies across the U.S. government to encourage our trading partners to continue to make concrete progress toward stronger and more open copyright marketplaces.

On January 30, IIPA made a detailed submission to USTR with its recommendations for the 2024 Special 301 Report. IIPA’s full submission can be found at <https://www.iipa.org/files/uploads/2024/01/Final-PDF-for-Website-1.pdf>.”

In today’s announcement:

- USTR lists 7 countries on the Priority Watch List, including key copyright markets like Argentina, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, and the Russian Federation;
- USTR lists 20 countries on the Watch List, including key markets for creators like Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The 2024 Special 301 Report lists the following countries:

USTR 2024 Special 301 Decisions	
Priority Watch List	Watch List
Argentina	Algeria
Chile	Barbados
China	Belarus
India	Bolivia
Indonesia	Brazil
Russian Federation	Bulgaria
Venezuela	Canada
	Colombia
	Ecuador
	Egypt
	Guatemala
	Mexico
	Pakistan
	Paraguay
	Peru
	Thailand
	Trinidad & Tobago
	Turkey
	Turkmenistan
	Vietnam

**About the IIPA:** IIPA is a private sector coalition, formed in 1984, of trade associations representing U.S. copyright-based industries working to improve copyright protection and enforcement abroad and to open foreign markets closed by piracy and other market access barriers. Members of the IIPA include Association of American Publishers ([www.publishers.org](http://www.publishers.org)), Entertainment Software Association ([www.theesa.com](http://www.theesa.com)), Independent Film & Television Alliance ([www.ifta-online.org](http://www.ifta-online.org)), Motion Picture Association ([www.motionpictures.org](http://www.motionpictures.org)), and Recording Industry Association of America ([www.riaa.com](http://www.riaa.com)). Collectively, IIPA’s five member associations represent over 3,200 U.S. companies producing and distributing copyrightable content. The materials produced and/or distributed by IIPA-member companies include: video games for consoles, handheld devices, personal computers, and online; motion pictures and television programming distributed in all formats (including cinema, television, online, mobile, DVD, etc.); music recorded in all formats (from digital files to CDs and vinyl) for streaming and other online services, as well as broadcasting, public performance, and synchronization in audiovisual materials; and fiction and non-fiction books, educational, instructional and assessment materials, and professional and scholarly journals, and databases.

In December 2022, IIPA released the latest update of its comprehensive economic report, *Copyright Industries in the U.S. Economy: The 2022 Report*, prepared by Secretariat Economists. (2022 Report). According to the 2022 Report, the “core” copyright industries in the United States generated over \$1.8 trillion of economic output in 2021, accounting for 7.76% of the entire economy, and employed approximately 9.6 million workers in 2021, accounting for 4.88% of the entire U.S. workforce and 5.53% of total private employment in the U.S. The jobs created by these industries are well-paying jobs; for example, copyright industry workers earn on average 51% higher wages

than other U.S. workers. The report also broke new ground by measuring the copyright industries' significant contributions to the U.S. digital economy, as that concept was defined by the federal government. In 2021, the core copyright industries accounted for 52.26% of the U.S. digital economy and 48.1% of U.S. digital economy employment, even though the government's digital economy definition does not encompass the full range of the copyright industries' digital activities. In addition, according to the 2022 Report, the core copyright industries outpaced the U.S. economy, growing at an aggregate annual rate of 6.15% between 2018 and 2021, while the U.S. economy grew by 1.76%. When factoring in other industries that contribute to the copyright economy (which together comprise what the 2022 Report calls the "total" copyright industries), the numbers are even more compelling. Additionally, the 2022 Report highlights the positive contribution of selected copyright sectors to the U.S. overall trade balance. Given the importance of digital delivery to the copyright-based industries, this sector has the potential to multiply its export revenues if our trading partners provide strong copyright-protective environments. In 2021, these sectors contributed \$230.3 billion in foreign sales and exports, exceeding that of many other industry sectors, including chemicals, pharmaceutical and medicines, agricultural products, aerospace products and parts, and food and kindred products. The full economic report is available at <https://iipa.org/reports/copyright-industries-us-economy/>.