

Brian Raymond
Director
Innovation Policy

January 20, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley (R-IA)
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT)
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy,

On behalf of the more than 14,000 members of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, I write to express our support for S. 1890, the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2015.

Intellectual property (IP) is one of the most valued business assets for manufacturers of all sizes. It can include everything from the special recipe for a food or beverage enjoyed every day to a life-saving medication to a manufacturing process perfected and tested over generations. These all provide a competitive edge and require careful protection. This proprietary information powers the innovation on a shop floor which drives job creation at facilities across the United States. Manufacturers often use trade secrets to protect this powerful business advantage and to maintain economic leadership.

Manufacturers deploy the latest technology and controls to protect this critical information guarded by trade secrets. In the unfortunate instances when this data is compromised, our industry needs to act quickly before it is disclosed and its value is lost forever. Today's current system therefore needs to be updated to provide the owners of trade secrets the ability to pursue IP thieves aggressively and efficiently.

The Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2015 would create a federal civil right of action to protect trade secrets. This would eliminate the difficult, time-consuming and costly process imposed on manufacturers currently spread across multiple state jurisdictions. The bill will also give trade secrets owners the same legal options as owners of other forms of IP.

The NAM supports the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2015 and we urge the Committee to approve this legislation that will help enhance the ability of manufacturers to protect and defend their innovations that are driving the job creation in our sector.

Sincerely,

