

STATEMENT OF VISHAL AMIN  
NOMINEE TO SERVE AS  
U.S. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
MAY 24, 2017

Thank you Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Feinstein and members of the Committee. It is an honor to be here today, as the President's nominee to serve as the U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC).

I would like to thank my family, my parents, my daughter, and especially my wife for all of her love and support. I would also like to thank the Chairman, members and staff of the House Judiciary Committee, for being such great mentors, colleagues and friends.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the Constitution recognizes the fundamental importance of intellectual property and its protection to the United States. Intellectual property underpins nearly every aspect of our economy – it supports good paying jobs, it supports the arts, sciences and technology, and it creates a framework that allows new industries and innovations to flourish. We must protect our great competitive advantage, our nation's innovative economy.

If confirmed, it would be an honor and a privilege to serve in this role, one that is focused on growing our economy, driving innovation, and putting America first. As we all work together to protect American intellectual property – Congress, the Executive Branch, the Courts, the private sector, and the public – I see the federal government's work falling broadly into three categories—

First, if confirmed as IPEC, I will work with my colleagues in the White House and senior leadership at the agencies and departments involved to ensure that the government's efforts are focused and well-coordinated and that resources are being used effectively and efficiently. We need to ask ourselves three important questions -- What are we doing well? What isn't working? And what should we be doing?

Second, utilizing existing tools to ensure that our IP laws are enforced and preventing counterfeit and infringing goods from entering our borders. We need to engage with our trading partners and our stakeholders, to fight IP infringement at its source, expand law enforcement cooperation, protect supply chains, and promote public health & safety.

Third, to help promote American jobs and economic growth, we need to make sure that our IP enforcement policy includes all areas of intellectual property and innovation policy – copyrights, patents, trademarks and trade secrets; and involves nearly every sector of our economy. As we work to advance American economic interests, a significant component of our enforcement and

protection efforts must include addressing trade enforcement, market access, competition, digital trade, cybersecurity, and rule of law concerns in the IP space, around the world.

If confirmed, I plan on working with all the agencies and departments involved to help take a targeted, practical, and comprehensive approach to the United States' IP enforcement strategy. That approach can start with engagement with our trading partners; the effective use of all of our authorities, including our trade tools; expanded law enforcement cooperation; and, engagement and partnership with the private sector. The goal will be to ensure a level playing field for American innovators and creators, where their innovations and creations are respected and protected, and for systems to be in place that allow American businesses to operate in a free, fair and open marketplace.

We need to make sure that all of our innovators and creators are able to operate in these foreign markets, and that they also provide clear paths for them to secure and use their intellectual property. Countries and foreign companies should not be allowed to profit off of the theft or misappropriation of American intellectual property, through actions including, trade secret theft, IP infringement, piracy, forced technology transfers or localization requirements.

We are at a defining moment in this new century, it is imperative for us to advance pro-growth policies, to protect our nation's continued economic and innovative competitiveness, promote new engines of growth, and America's innovative and creative capacity.

There is a lot of work ahead of us, and the President has and continues to assemble a great team, and if confirmed, I look forward to joining that team, and working to promote and protect American innovation and intellectual property.