



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

September 12, 2023

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The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin and Senator Cornyn,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 2566, the *American IDEA Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Intellectual property theft, especially by foreign actors, is a serious national security threat. It costs the U.S. economy billions of dollars a year, and in addition to the economic and job-related impacts, IP theft can also produce significant public safety consequences. For example, IP theft is sometimes tied to larger organized criminal networks, which use the proceeds from these crimes to further other illicit activities.

The *American IDEA Act* will reauthorize DOJ's Intellectual Property Enforcement Program (IPEP), which provides grants to assist law enforcement in combatting IP theft. The bill also makes a few important changes to the IPEP that will enhance law enforcement's ability to investigate and prosecute these crimes. More specifically, S. 2566 will expand the eligible uses of IPEP funds to include promoting federal-local law enforcement cooperation, which is vital given the transnational nature of IP theft. It will also lower the local match requirement for activities focused on addressing perpetrators in countries on the United States Trade Representative's watchlist. This will help expand access to funding for projects focused on the worst IP theft offenders.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued support of law enforcement. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Eddie Garcia  
Chief, Dallas Police Department  
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

Calgary, Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Montreal, Québec  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Peel Region, Ontario  
Toronto, Ontario  
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Winnipeg, Manitoba  
York Region, Ontario