

sideboards to ensure this study will not consider any recommendations that would result in the removal or reduction of the federally authorized purposes of the system or any measures that would result in a reduction in services provided by those purposes. While I still believe that this study is far too large and untargeted to result in timely recommendations for anadromous fish recovery—and as such, wastes funding better used in the region than on yet another river study—with this important limitation, I am pleased to be able to support the overall WRDA bill and the many important priorities it encompasses for our water infrastructure. Should this study be signed into law, I expect and will pay careful mind that it meets the specific congressional intent of preserving our hydropower system and the many benefits it provides. I look forward to continue working with my colleagues to identify solutions to salmon recovery that do not inhibit the clean energy, flood control, navigation, agricultural, and recreation benefits of our Federal power system.

UNITED STATES INNOVATION AND COMPETITION ACT OF 2021

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following letters be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

APRIL 27, 2022.

Hon. RAPHAEL WARNOCK,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WARNOCK: As a business organization focused on a vibrant economy, the Metro Atlanta Chamber encourages you to support the INFORM Consumers Act as part of the bipartisan U.S. Innovation and Competition Act of 2021. This will ensure legitimate businesses and consumers in Georgia and across the country are better protected.

The Metro Atlanta Chamber represents businesses, colleges and universities, and nonprofits across the 29-county region that makes up the nation's ninth largest market. As a more than 160-year-old organization, we strive to ensure that Georgia maintains its status as the number one state to do business.

In recent years, Georgia shoppers have been provided access to a vast network of affordable on line products and convenient, fast delivery. Georgia retailers are proud of the supply chain that has allowed for this, especially when our economy was upended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Families could depend on Georgia retailers that were essential in keeping our state open for business and our communities safe. However, the rapid growth of online shopping has provided new opportunities for criminals and fraudsters—with many of the latter located in China—to peddle cheap counterfeits and stolen products designed to undercut American manufacturers and local retailers.

The INFORM Consumers Act will help stop unsafe counterfeit products such as N95 masks, toys, and automobile parts from being sold in significant quantities, which are putting Georgia consumers at risk. Today, illegitimate imports cost domestic

retailers at least \$54.1 billion in sales. We can only expect this number to grow as Russia scraps trademark protections amid the ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe and joins China as one of the most egregious intellectual property offenders.

Meanwhile, sophisticated rings of criminals are brazenly stealing merchandise off the shelves of retail store shelves and selling these items online using fake screennames and bogus business accounts. In addition to putting retail workers and customers in harm's way, these thieves pose a serious economic threat. Research suggests that retail theft has cost retailers across the nation \$68.9 billion in losses. Congress must address these growing problems before additional consumers or legitimate American businesses pay the price. The common-sense measures of the INFORM Consumers Act, introduced by Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) in the Senate, and Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) in the House will make it harder for criminal networks and con artists from around the globe to use the anonymity of online marketplaces to dupe consumers with counterfeit and stolen products.

INFORM would require online marketplaces to verify high-volume sellers on their platforms and provides consumers with a method to contact sellers if they suspect they have been ripped off and sold a fake, broken, or dangerous item. This bill would not in any way inhibit the small businesses in Georgia that conduct legitimate commerce on marketplaces every day, and it protects the personal information of small sellers. That's why it has united consumer groups, manufacturers, retailers, and marketplaces who want to protect American consumers from stolen, fake, and dangerous products.

This simple, bipartisan measure will bring transparency and accountability to third-party sellers online and make it harder for criminals and counterfeiters to harm local businesses and consumers. On behalf of Georgia retailers—and especially for our employees and customers—we strongly urge you to support the INFORM Consumers Act and include it as part of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act of 2021.

Sincerely,

KATIE KIRKPATRICK, P.E.,
President and Chief Executive Officer.

APRIL 27, 2022.

Hon. Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WARNOCK: In recent years, Georgia shoppers have been provided access to a vast network of affordable online products and convenient, fast delivery. Georgia retailers are proud of the supply chain that has allowed for this, especially when our economy was upended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Families could depend on the many retailers that were essential in keeping our state open for business and our communities safe.

However, the rapid growth of online shopping has provided new opportunities for criminals and fraudsters—with many of the latter located in China—to peddle cheap counterfeits and stolen products designed to undercut American manufacturers and local retailers. Congress has the ability to act to ensure legitimate businesses and consumers in Georgia and across the country are better protected, we urge you to include the INFORM Consumers Act as part of the bipartisan U.S. Innovation and Competition Act of 2021.

The INFORM Consumers Act will help stop unsafe counterfeit products such as N95 masks, toys, and automobile parts from being sold in significant quantities, which

are putting Georgia consumers at risk. Today, illegitimate imports cost domestic retailers at least \$54.1 billion in sales. We can only expect this number to grow as Russia scraps trademark protections amid the ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe and joins China as one of the most egregious intellectual property offenders.

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Sincerely,

CHRIS CLARK,
President and CEO,
Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

LAGRANGE TROUP COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
LaGrange, GA, June 16, 2022.

Hon. RAPHAEL WARNOCK,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WARNOCK: On behalf of the LaGrange Troup County Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to provide support for increased funding for domestic semiconductor production. Our membership includes several industrial partners in Troup County who have been negatively impacted and repeatedly shutdown due to chip shortages. Our Chamber appreciates your efforts to provide U.S. manufacturers access to these important components now and in the future.

The LaGrange Troup County Chamber of Commerce was established in 1911 to support and enhance the businesses and business climate of Troup County. Through our mission of championing our member businesses and serving as a catalyst for advancing the region's economic success, we work diligently on their behalf.

The LaGrange Troup County Chamber looks forward to continuing to support efforts to alleviate challenges in workforce development and strengthen supply chain resiliency.

Sincerely,

CONNIE HENSLER,
President and CEO.

MARCH 2, 2022.

Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK.

DEAR SENATOR WARNOCK: On behalf of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, I am excited to offer this letter in support of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act as well as the America COMPETES Act. As our economy and workforce continue to change, we believe that strengthening our ability to compete globally is key to our long-term success. The Chamber is actively engaged in supporting and enhancing our local community as a regional catalyst in economic growth, workforce development, community vibrancy, and inclusion.

We are hopeful that the passing of this bill means stronger funding and policy support for regional job growth; especially with support for semi-conductor manufacturing that further enables technology manufacturing and strengthens Georgia's automobile industry, the outcome of alleviating supply chain obstacles and the inclusion of historic investments in commercial development and science and technology. Further, strengthening the designated innovation hub between Columbus and Opelika remains an important focus and we'd look forward to the availability of funding to support research and development and commercialization in this arena.

Lastly, as we tackle the challenge of building a world class workforce in a tough environment, support via workforce development programs and funding is imperative.

Please accept our support for SB 1260, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. We look forward to this advancing and to continuing to build a strong Columbus, a strong Georgia and a strong nation. Thanks for your continued partnership.

Very respectfully,

JERALD MITCHELL,
President and CEO.

JUNE 16, 2022.

Hon. Rev. RAPHAEL WARNOCK,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REVEREND WARNOCK: As Director of the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP), I want to thank you for your ongoing efforts to enhance Georgia's innovation and manufacturing sectors and work to strengthen U.S. competitiveness. Each year, GaMEP assists more than 1,000 small and medium-sized manufacturers across Georgia through onsite implementation, training and learning opportunities, connections to partners, and other resources. I hope you can further support the success of Georgia's manufacturing sector in your important role as Senate conferee to the bicameral conference for the United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA, S. 1260) and the America COMPETES Act of 2022 (COMPETES Act, H.R. 4521).

These important bills under negotiation have the potential to transform the U.S. economy by spurring new innovations in emerging technologies, jumpstarting our domestic semiconductor production capabilities, and dramatically expanding and solidifying the resiliency of the U.S. manufacturing base. I strongly encourage the inclusion in the final conference agreement the proposed increase of authorized funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Part-

nership (MEP) program and the establishment of a National Manufacturing Advisory Council as outlined in both the Senate USJCA and the House COMPETES Act. The bills also include important provisions to create new supply chain resiliency programs to identify, prepare for, and respond to threats to the U.S. supply chain. Looking toward development of future and emerging industries, manufacturers will also have an important role in furthering Georgia's economic development through the proposed Department of Commerce Regional Technology Hubs program. Without actual funding behind these tremendously important policy proposals, these activities may never advance. As such, I encourage Congress to include appropriated funding to begin these efforts.

GaMEP is proud to promote the success of the manufacturing industry within Georgia and support our manufacturers to be globally competitive. The competitiveness legislation under negotiation will propel our efforts even further. I urge Congress to come to a final agreement, which includes these important manufacturing and supply chain provisions, and swiftly enact this crucial legislation. I want to reiterate my appreciation for your work to support the manufacturing and innovation industries in Georgia and I would be happy to answer any questions you or your office may have.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY D. ISRAEL,
*Director, Georgia Institute of
Technology—Georgia Manufacturing
Extension Partnership.*

TRIBUTE TO KAREN FISHER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Karen Fisher for her decades of leadership toward innovation and systematic change to improve the health of Americans. Karen may be retiring from a momentous health policy career, but the Nation will long feel the positive impact of her work.

From 2011 to 2016, the Senate Finance Committee was fortunate to benefit from Karen's expertise on the Medicare program and other key health policy issues. Serving as senior health counsel, Karen led the committee's work in 2015 to permanently repeal the outdated and flawed sustainable growth rate—SGR—formula previously used to determine Medicare physician payments and to replace it with a new payment system that advances value-based care for the millions who rely on the Medicare program as a lifeline.

In addition to her historic role in permanently retiring the SGR, Karen oversaw legislative activities related to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation—CMMI—and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute—PCORI—as she uplifted the transformative effect alternative payment models could have in driving greater commitments to quality and value in healthcare. She also served—and continues to serve—as a mentor to early-career staff on the Committee and across Capitol Hill, offering professional guidance and networking opportunities for the next generation of female leaders.

At the Association of American Medical Colleges—AAMC—Karen has con-

tinued her commitment to improve healthcare through public policy. Throughout her nearly 6 years as chief public policy officer, the AAMC has been an important voice on the need to expand access to healthcare nationwide by strengthening coverage through both the Affordable Care Act and the Medicaid program and by addressing shortages of physicians and other health professionals.

Her more than 25 years of experience also have been an essential asset during the COVID pandemic, as she liaised between Federal policymakers and the academic medicine community to support the heroic efforts of the country's health professionals and scientists in treating patients, expanding access to telehealth, developing and administering COVID tests, advancing research on new countermeasures, developing and deploying vaccines, and enhancing health equity interventions.

I know that I speak for health policy professionals nationwide as I express my gratitude for Karen's dedication, talent, mentorship, leadership, and persistence in public service and in betterment of the Nation's health.

Thank you, Karen. I am wishing you and your family all the best for a very well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ACKLEY PADILLA

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to proudly recognize the outstanding public service of Ackley Padilla, my brother, who is retiring after nearly two decades of helping to lead the city of Los Angeles.

Ackley is a proud son of Pacoima, CA—and I know that Pacoima takes incredible pride in him. Ackley, my sister Julie, and I all learned to value public service from our parents, Santos and Lupe Padilla. Ackley made his career serving the people of the San Fernando Valley while working for a number of local elected officials.

Ackley worked for the first Latino and the first Latina presidents of the Los Angeles City Council. And, yes, that means that I was once his boss. For the past 9 years, he has worked for council president Nury Martinez. As her chief of staff, he has been crucial to Los Angeles's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including getting testing and vaccination sites up and running, as well as food distribution sites and other assistance for families in need.

In addition to his public service, Ackley is a passionate fan of the Angels and the Clippers—and known hater of the Lakers and the Dodgers. He clearly followed his father instead of his brother on those decisions. Ackley is a proud dad to three wonderful girls—Kaylyn, Kathryn and Khloey—and a proud handyman. He has come to love his minivan, "Pony Boy," and will surely drive into many adventures in the years ahead.

The people of Pacoima, the San Fernando Valley, and all of Los Angeles have benefited from Ackley's public