



April 4, 2016

Dear Senators:

Americans for Tax Reform would like to add its strong support for the S.1890 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016.

Networks of robust and enforceable laws protect intellectual property such as patents, copyrights, and trademarks. These legal protections are important in rewarding innovation and encouraging investment in research and development. Unfortunately, trade secrets do not receive the same federal protection as all other forms of intellectual property.

Trade secrets are important to all companies, and especially small and innovative companies because they do not have the budget to seek patent protection. S.1890 Defend Trade Secrets Act 2016 legislation enables American businesses to protect their trade secrets in federal court. Furthermore, the legislation equips businesses with the necessary tools to respond to trade secret theft, including the ability to retrieve stolen assets and seek injunctions against perpetrators.

Unfortunately, current remedies alone are not enough to prevent loss of trade secrets. Law enforcement helps but too often they lack resources to respond quickly. The S.1890 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 helps alleviate the problem by creating federal civil cause of action that at the moment does not exist.

In the computer-connected world, the need for trade secret protection is only increasing. Businesses now have to compete with businesses around the world. Our current trade secret protection system is out of date is uncompetitive. Today's global economy needs a national standard for protection that will protect and benefit businesses of all sizes.

We thank you for your support of S.1890 Defend Trade Secrets of 2016.

If you should have any questions or comments, please contact Katie McAuliffe by email, kmcauliffe@atr.org, or phone, 202-785-0266.

Onward,

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